



Early Start to the Finance Option

March 19, 2024

Land acknowledgement

UBC Vancouver (Point Grey) is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) people.

To learn about the lands that you occupy, visit www.native-land.ca



Session outline

- Introductions
- Why finance and what makes careers in finance special
- Why we offer an Early Start to the Finance option
- Eligibility and admissions criteria
- Registration in required Finance courses in Year 2
- Finance option requirements
- Popular career paths in Finance
- Key skills and attributes
- Understanding roles and recruiting prep
- Opportunities for involvement and experience
- Is this option pathway the right fit for me?
- Q & A



Introductions

UBC Sauder Finance Division

- **Jan Bena**, Associate Professor & Finance Division Chair
Bank of Montreal Chair in International Finance
- **Jose Pizarro**, Lecturer, Finance Division

Hari B. Varshney Business Career Centre

- **Michael Clarke**, Associate Director, BCOM Careers
- **Misa Zhang**, Career Strategist, BCom Careers

Undergraduate Office

- **Abril Castillo**, Academic Advisor, UGO
- **Craig Kingsep**, Associate Director, UGO



Why you should be thinking about finance now

- **The importance of capital markets and finance in the society continues to increase.**
- Finance professionals and institutions are assuming broader societal roles through initiatives such as impact investing and climate finance.
- The path to finance careers requires **strong academics** coupled with **experiential learning**. UBC Sauder excels in both.
- **Finance industry offers abundant opportunities including early hiring. It's beneficial to get informed and explore now.**

Why Career in Finance?

- **Dynamic and innovative industry with a consistent high demand for graduates**
- **Offers stimulating and exciting job opportunities**
- **Rapid career progression compared to other sectors**
- **Defined pathways for advancement with ample opportunities for growth and excellence**
- **Diverse career paths available to cater to different individual preferences**
- **Global work opportunities**
- **Abundant exit opportunities if you choose to transition out of finance**

Finance Careers

Traditional Areas

- Money Management
- Investment Banking
- Corporate Finance
- Commercial Banking
- Central Banking, Regulation, and Compliance

Rapidly Advancing Areas

- Venture Capital
- Private Equity, Private Credit
- FinTech, Digital Finance
- Big Data with AI Integration
- Sustainable Finance, Impact Investing
- Climate Finance
- Financial Forensics



Finance is a world of Opportunity

Why we offer an Early Start to the Finance option

- **Response to job market** – internships in capital markets are being offered earlier with interviews during fall of Year 2 and 3.
- **Allow students to take COMM 298 in Term 1 of Year 2** and take the first required Finance option course COMM 370 in Term 2 of Year 2.
- Aimed at students that – before the beginning of their Year 2 – have a **strong interest in finance and desire to explore careers in capital markets.**
- The **Early Start changes the timing of the curriculum.** There is no other difference compared to the Finance option curriculum.
- The world of finance is evolving rapidly and is offering many (novel) opportunities beyond capital markets careers. **It is totally fine to take time, explore more, and enter the Finance option starting Year 3.**

What is required to be eligible?

To be eligible for the Early Start to the Finance option, students are required to:

1. Be starting Year 2 for the first time in 2024W. Students who had a Year 2 eligibility in a previous winter session are not eligible.
2. Have the following courses completed before the end of **Term 1** of 2024W:
 - **COMM 190 – Introduction to Quantitative Decision Making**
 - **COMM 293 – Financial Accounting**
 - **COMM 295 – Managerial Economics**
 - **COMM 298 – Introduction to Finance** (this course is normally completed in Term 2 but will need to be completed in Term 1 to be eligible for the Early Start to the Finance option pathway)
3. Have the following courses completed by the end of **Term 2** of 2024W:
 - **COMM 191 – Application of Statistics in Business**
 - **COMM 294 – Managerial Accounting**
4. Be eligible for promotion to Year 3 after 2024W. View mybcom.sauder.ubc.ca/courses-money-and-enrolment/exams-and-grades/promotion-requirements
5. Submit a two-part application for admission to the Early Start to the Finance option.
 - i. Part One of the application must be submitted after successful registration in COMM 298 (date to be determined).
 - ii. Part Two of the application must be submitted by the end of Term 1 (date to be determined).

Admissions criteria

Space in the Early Start to the Finance option is limited and admission is competitive. All courses requiring a minimum GPA must be completed by the end of Term 1 of 2024W. The admissions criteria include:

- A minimum grade of 65% in each of the following UBC courses: COMM 190, COMM 293 and COMM 295
- A minimum grade of 75% in COMM 298 – Introduction to Finance
- A minimum average of 76% calculated on all of: COMM 190, COMM 293, COMM 295, & COMM 298
- Qualitative evaluation in COMM 298 and other relevant courses
- Responses to application questions



Registration in required Finance courses in Year 2

2024W Term 1 Required Course

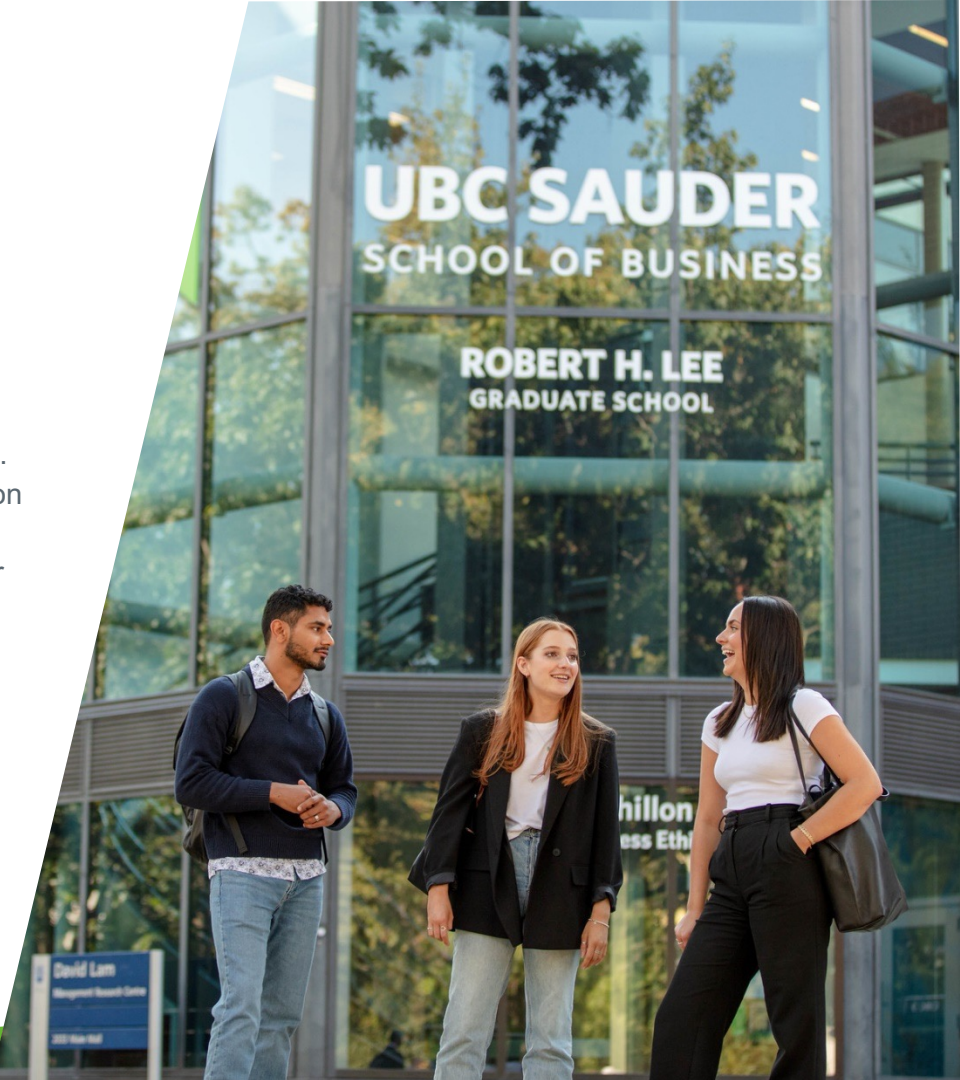
COMM 298 – Introduction to Finance¹

¹ There will be limited space in the Term 1 sections of COMM 298. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis depending on your 2024W registration date and time. If you are not able to register in a Term 1 section when your registration opens, register for a Term 2 section. If any seats become available in a Term 1 section before the September add/drop deadline, you can switch yourself.

2024W Term 2 Required Course

COMM 370 – Corporate Finance²

² The UGO will register you in the course at the start of Term 2 once you are accepted to the Early Start to the option.



Finance (Year 3 start)

Year 2

COMM 298 Introduction to Finance (Term 2)

Year 3

COMM 370 Corporate Finance (Term 1)

COMM 371 Investment Theory (Term 1)

COMM 374 Applied Financial Markets (Term 2)

Year 4

Six credits from the following courses:

COMM 376 Financial Institutions

COMM 377 International Financial Markets and Institutions

COMM 470 Venture Capital

COMM 471 Mergers and Acquisitions

COMM 474 Fixed Income Markets & Management

COMM 475 Investment Policy

COMM 477 Risk Management & Financial Engineering

COMM 479 Advanced Topics in Corporate Finance

COMM 486H Advanced Topics in Investment Management

COMM 486T FinTech

Early Start to Finance

Year 2

COMM 298 Introduction to Finance (Term 1)

COMM 370 Corporate Finance (Term 2)

Year 3

COMM 371 Investment Theory (Term 1)

COMM 374 Applied Financial Markets (Term 2)

Year 3 or 4

Six credits from the following courses:

COMM 376 Financial Institutions

COMM 377¹ International Financial Markets and Institutions

COMM 470 Venture Capital

COMM 471 Mergers and Acquisitions

COMM 474¹ Fixed Income Markets & Management

COMM 475¹ Investment Policy

COMM 477² Risk Management & Financial Engineering

COMM 479 Advanced Topics in Corporate Finance

COMM 486H¹ Advanced Topics in Investment Management

COMM 486T FinTech

¹ Can be taken at the earliest in Year 3 Term 2 - COMM 371 is a prerequisite for the course.
² Can be taken at the earliest in Year 4 Term 1 - COMM 374 is the prerequisite for the course.

Elective Courses offered by UBC Sauder Finance Division

- **Financial Institutions***
- **M&A**
- **Venture Capital**
- **Entrepreneurial Finance and Private Equity***
- **FinTech***
- **Behavioral Finance***
- **Project Finance***
- **Personal Finance***
- **Climate Finance***
- **International Finance**
- **Investment Policy**
- **Advanced Topics in Investment Management***
- **Fixed Income Markets and Management**
- **Advanced Topics in Corporate Finance**
- **Risk Management and Financial Engineering***

* Indicates new or recently renewed courses

* Indicates courses that will be newly offered in the next academic year

As a career strategist, I often hear students asking...

Other students around me are choosing finance and they seem to be determined. Why am I left behind?

My parents told me I should study finance, but am I a good fit for finance career?

How can I know if I am interested in finance or not?

How is it possible to figure out the career path for the rest of my life when I am only 20?

What if I only know what I dislike but not what I like?



It only means you need to explore your career path. And, there are opportunities for you to explore.

Hear it from industry professionals:

Why did I choose to pursue a career in finance?

- Enjoyed finance courses at school
- Enjoyed reading finance-related news and articles
- Gained valuable insights from finance professors, alumni, upper-year students and friends in the industry and learned more about the different areas of finance
- Discovered passion for finance from case competitions and finance student clubs
- Found strong interest in subjects that require analytical skills and logical thinking as well as their application to real-world situations
- Influenced by their possession of strong quantitative skills and affinity for working with and interpreting numbers



Explore your career path in finance

1

Online Research

Different areas of finance, career paths, potential job responsibilities and required skills

2

Networking

Company recruitment sessions, finance networking events, coffee chat with people in finance

3

Extracurricular Activities

Finance student clubs, case competitions, conferences, school programs



Popular career paths in Finance



**Banking,
Sales and Trade**



**Equity and Debt
Capital Markets**



**Impact & Socially
Responsible Investing,
Compliance and Risk**



**Asset & Investment
Management**



**Corporate Finance,
ESG**



**Private Equity,
Venture Capital**



**FinTech,
Crypto & DeFi**



**Trading,
Exchanges, Brokers**

Employers are looking for you to stand out with...



Knowledge of theoretical foundations of finance.



Oral and written communication skills.



Analytical and technical skills.



Independent critical thinking and ability to confront new problems.



Identification and utilization of key sources of financial data and information.



Teamwork and relationship building skills.



Ability to analyze and interpret data.



Responsible and ethical behaviour.

Mentorship & Specialty Programs

Capital Markets Training Program

Find out career paths and learn the technical skills needed in the capital markets and investment banking area.

Portfolio Management Foundation

The UBC Portfolio Management Foundation (PMF) provides a small group of select BCom students with an experience that will provide world-class training in the global capital markets.

Finance Mentorship Program

Explore career opportunities in the finance sector and prepare for summer recruitment, paired with an industry professional.

UBC SWIFT: UBC Sauder Women in Finance Training

An extra-curricular program for BCom students. Through connections between academics and practitioners in finance, students reconcile practical portfolio management with rigorous academic theory.

Get involved and gain experience

Student-Led Clubs, Funds, and Communities



Competitions & Conferences



Finance Internship Recruitment Cycles

Taking 2025 summer internship in different areas as an example:

January – March, 2024

Mainly investment banking summer analyst positions

April – September, 2024

Sales and Trading, Equity Research, Private Equity, Pension Funds, Wealth Management, Corporate Banking, Commercial Banking positions

September – December, 2024

Different roles in finance keep coming up. From mid September to late October, a lot of companies will host company recruitment sessions on campus/online to recruit Sauder students.

January is the time when we see most finance summer internship openings. You'll also see new postings for 2026 IB summer internship.

January, 2025

Very a few postings from big firms. Some postings from small-mid size firms.

February - April, 2025

2025 summer internship starts!

May, 2025

Early Start to Finance

Have a focus in finance earlier than taking traditional finance option. Get early exposure to finance recruitment and extracurricular activities.

Be better placed to apply for summer internships in the capital markets space based on having more 'technical' knowledge through the finance courses offered.



Is this option pathway the right fit for me?

Questions to ask yourself:

- With a such a condensed timeframe, am I ready to commit myself to the additional time needed outside of classes for coffee chats, attending CISs, joining finance-related clubs, taking part in learning / using online resources?
- Am I committed to maintaining my grades throughout my second and third years?
- Do I possibly need more time (a longer runway) for me to explore the multitude of finance careers?



We are here to help!



- Check *Working in Finance* document on COOL
- Drop-in/Book appointment with Career Peer Advisor (Before April 12th)
- Book appointment with BCom Career Strategists (After April 12th)

Questions?



An aerial photograph of the University of British Columbia campus. The image shows a central green lawn flanked by rows of trees and modern university buildings. In the background, a large body of water is visible, with mountains rising in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds. The text "Thank you" and the website "mybcom.sauder.ubc.ca" is overlaid in white on the upper portion of the image.

Thank you
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