Early Start to the Finance Option

“Finance education at Sauder aims to contribute to building a more just, sustainable and prosperous world for all, by instilling in our students a deep sense of rigour, respect, and responsibility.”

Jan Bena
PhD Finance (London School of Economics), PhD Economics (CERGE-EI)
Bank of Montreal Chair in International Finance
Associate Professor and Chair, Finance Division

What is Early Start?

The Early Start to the Finance option is an opportunity for students to begin specializing in Finance in Year 2 and complete all of the requirements for the Finance option by the end of Year 3.

This option is intended for students who are ready to start exploring careers in the area of finance. In addition, the Early Start to the Finance option is for students with a focus on better preparing for finance recruitment opportunities beginning with internship applications early in their third year.

Why apply to Early Start?

1. You want to learn about financial markets and explore career opportunities in finance earlier in your commerce degree.

2. You’ll get early exposure to:
   - Foundational finance courses as well as more advanced courses
   - The different specialization areas within finance
   - Support from the UBC Sauder community for Finance students (e.g. BCC programming & beyond)

3. Preparation and opportunities to get finance internships as early as the end of your 2nd year.

Early Start is the right fit for you if you...

- Have strong quantitative and analytical skills.
- Demonstrate a diverse and inclusive mindset and critical thinking.
- Are an adaptable team player with strong relationship building and communication skills.
- Have a keen work ethic & capacity to manage a challenging course load while maintaining a high GPA.

Remember, you can always follow the traditional Finance pathway if you need more time to decide or aren’t admitted to Early Start.
Why consider a career in Finance?

You never stop learning and financial markets change all the time.

Finance is both qualitative and quantitative.

Finance is both global and local.

Finance focuses on the future.

Ethics matter more than ever.

Finance benefits from diversity in thinking.

Finance Careers

Banks
- Commercial Banking
- Sales and Trade
- Equity Research
- Investment Banking

Institutions
- Private Equity
- Venture Capital
- Portfolio Management
- Research
- Regulation
- Fintech
- Impact Investment

Corporations
- ESG
- Corporate Development
- Investor Relations
- Treasury
- FP&A

Examples include:
- Bank of Montreal (BMO)
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)
- Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- Toronto-Dominion Bank in Canada (TD Bank)
- Scotiabank

Examples include:
- Blackstone
- Sequoia Capital
- Fidelity Investments
- British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI)
- CPP Investments

Examples include:
- PepsiCo
- Tesla
- Telus Corporation
- Lululemon Athletica
- Amazon
- Microsoft Corporation
Fields in Financial Markets

- 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.

How do I apply to Early Start?

1. Register for COMM 298 in Winter Session Term 1. After registration, you will receive a link to the Canvas application form.
2. Complete an application form on Canvas, including an opinion essay (Part 1 of application).
3. Achieve required grades in COMM298, 290, 293 and 295 in Term 1.
4. Complete Part 2 of application by end of Term 1 deadline.

Questions about the Early Start to the Finance option? Email bcomquestions@sauder.ubc.ca for assistance.