

Like most students who would be graduating from IES, I was thinking whether I should continue my further studies under the same roof or try different environment. Eventually, I decided to change things up a bit and applied to a few master programs in the UK, as I had good experience with the University of Southampton where I studied one semester as part of the Erasmus+ program.

Similar to Charles University, University College London is a larger uni with many faculties and programs. Master in Finance is taught under UCL School of Management which is located on the 38th floor of One Canada Square in Canary Wharf.

The programme itself is fairly quantitative with a focus on financial mathematics, econometrics and programming in Python, Matlab and R. The first semester is regarded to be more difficult because, apart from taking 4 core modules, students also spend a lot of time applying to various graduate schemes (mostly IBs and Big 4) which usually close in early November-December for an intake in September. In the following semester, there were various optional modules to choose from. I enrolled in Fixed Income Modelling, Big Data Analytics, Private Equity and Venture Capital and Hedge fund strategies. The last semester (June to September) is dedicated to dissertations. The school also helped us with the job application process by providing seminars, networking events and mock assessment centers.

Overall, I think the program is excellent for anyone who would like to pursue their career in investment banking, consulting or fintech. However, as I said, it is good to point out that it is more focused on the quantitative, rather than accounting and corporate, part of finance. One of the drawbacks which I found important is that the UK masters are only one year programs and so it might be difficult to create a real friendships.

London is a vivid city where everyone can find something to do, be it driving a go-kart, attending various fintech conferences, dining at Sky Garden in the City or just discovering hidden corners of London.

Anyone who would like more info either about the programme or the job application process in London, don't hesitate to contact me. :]

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