

M&T Intern Fellowship Report 2015

I was made aware of the opportunity to intern at Forefront Capital Management in Mumbai, India thru M&T exclusive outreach and recruiting. Specifically, it was mentioned in several emails from the M&T office. The application was simple enough – just my resume and transcript. Soon thereafter I was contacted for a first round interview with Forefront cofounder and M&T alum Radhika Gupta. It was conducted over Skype due to the geographic distance, and consisted of general questions relating to my motivations and background. I was then invited to a second round interview with Nalin Moniz, also a cofounder and M&T alum, which was much more technical in nature.

Unfortunately, this summer I was unable to actually make it to Mumbai in person, as I encountered severe visa difficulties. I ended up working remotely from home in California. Nevertheless, I have nothing but good words to say about the internship itself. Mr. Moniz made every attempt to help me resolve the visa situation as well as communicate my responsibilities and answer my work questions. While LA is 12.5 hours behind Mumbai time, thanks to Forefront's efforts I felt that I still gained plenty from the experience and made a positive contribution. My fellow interns and I worked on event-driven investing in Asian, non-Indian countries. I specifically looked at Japan. After a couple weeks getting up to speed on the relevant statistics and Japanese financial regulations, I conducted event studies of stock buybacks and M&A activity in Japan over the past 5 years. By the end of the internship, I compiled my statistical analysis and relevant information about the Japanese markets into a concise report, which I presented to Forefront management and fellow interns.

My primary motivation for taking the opportunity at Forefront Capital Management was to investigate whether I enjoyed working in finance. Prior to this summer, my work history has all been engineering research. I found that while finance was somewhat interesting to me, I enjoyed the statistics work much more. I now intend to concentrate in statistics, which is relevant to a career in finance as well as my engineering major of materials science. All in all, the experience was an enjoyable one that provided a valuable clarifying insight to my future.