

Tony Koo

<https://lmdlifers.github.io/>

<https://github.com/LMDlifers>

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Personal Statement

Introduction

My name is Tony, and I am a sophomore at the National University of Singapore (NUS), pursuing a Bachelor of Science in business analytics. I am passionate about immersing myself in French culture and aspire to build a career within Paris's startup ecosystem, where I can combine my analytical expertise and entrepreneurial spirit to drive innovation.

Academic Journey

I graduated from Temasek Polytechnic with a Diploma with Merit in accountancy and finance, specializing in financial analysis and portfolio management. This equipped me with expertise in financial modelling, and risk analysis. Motivated to leverage these skills with computing, I am now pursuing business analytics at NUS. Courses such as programming methodology and data structures and algorithms have honed my technical and analytical abilities, complementing my financial knowledge. I am familiar with Python, Java, Excel VBA, Tableau, and Figma, which enables me to analyse datasets and design practical, as well as visually intuitive solutions.

Extra-curriculars

During my free time, I enjoy exploring intriguing topics and applying what I learn. Recently, I collaborated with peers from NUS Computer Science to develop an algorithmic trading bot that automates currency trading using a mean-reversion strategy on IBKR. This experience further fueled my passion to tackle meaningful challenges.

Work experience

On top of school activities, I have gained valuable professional experience through internships at Tradition Singapore, a interdealer brokering firm dealing with OTC financial derivatives. At Tradition, I held roles that enhanced my technical and problem-solving abilities. As a middle office analyst for nine months, I facilitated large-scale financial transactions across Southeast Asia and London, ensuring accuracy and efficiency through the use of in-house systems. Subsequently, as a quantitative developer intern for four months, I collaborated with clients to build financial models for predicting currency swap rates using Excel, VBA, and Python. A particularly challenging task involved cleaning up server-based financial models for various currencies, which required meticulous research, adherence to regulatory conventions, and close collaboration with stakeholders. Simultaneously, I interned with *Smooder*, a sustainability-driven startup addressing food waste during year two to raise SGD 25,000 with EB impacts which were evaluated by OCBC, Meta, Singapore's City Developments Limited and Singapore's ministry of sustainability. Ultimately, these roles reinforced the importance to perform under pressure, adapt to complex environments, and consistently deliver results.

Objectives for NOC Paris

My primary objective in pursuing an internship through NOC Paris is to immerse myself in the startup ecosystem in Paris. I am particularly interested in contributing to the development of innovative ventures and helping companies grow. Building on my experience with *Smooder* and financial modelling, I aim to gain hands-on experience in startup operations, entrepreneurship, and global business processes within Paris's dynamic environment. To prepare for this opportunity, I have been actively learning French through private lessons. I am working toward achieving an A1 certification, with aspirations to reach A2 by end of 2025.

Final Thoughts

With my experiences in finance, computing, and leadership, along with my interest in innovation and sustainability, I am eager to contribute to and learn from the NOC Paris program. My technical skills in Python, Java, Excel VBA, and Tableau enable me to approach challenges with data-driven solutions, while my leadership experience equips me to adapt and work collaboratively in fast-paced startup environments. I aim to support startups in areas like business process optimization and financial modelling, contributing meaningfully to companies' growth. This opportunity will help me add value to society and start-ups, gain global exposure, and take a step closer to my aspirations in entrepreneurship and finance.

EDUCATION

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

Bachelor of Science (Business Analytics)

August 2023 – Present

- **Grade:** Honours with Merit
- **Awards:** University Engineering Scholarship, Sustainability Exchange 2024 Champion
- **Projects:** Smoodee, IBKR Algo Bot
- **Relevant Coursework:** Programming Methodology, Data Structures and Algorithms, Econometrics

Temasek Polytechnic

Singapore

Diploma in Accountancy & Finance

April 2018 – May 2021

- **Grade:** Diploma with Merit
- **Awards:** Letters of Appointment: A&F Vice-President and Business EXCO, ISCA award
- **Projects:** Value at Risk, Simulated Portfolio Management, WireCard, YouCard, Portz
- **Relevant Coursework:** Accounting, Economics, Financial and Risk Analysis, FinTech, Tax Management

WORK EXPERIENCE

Tradition Energy Singapore

Singapore

Quantitative Developer Intern

May 2023 – August 2024

- Developed and implemented VBA-driven financial models for forward swap contracts, enhancing client satisfaction and driving successful project outcomes
- Managed server-based spreadsheets encompassing multiple financial instruments, created a centralized workflow with python, thereby improving efficiency by 5 hours and calculation speed from 6.09s to 0.86s.
- Conducted implementation of Nelson-Siegel, Svensson, and monotone convex to yield curve constructions on VBA driven spreadsheets, resulting in more robust calculations for client-facing materials
- Contributed to the development of new financial products by combining market data analysis and modelling expertise, leading to the launch of 2 new instruments in the energy market, expanding business portfolio

Military Medical Institute (Singapore Armed Forces)

Singapore

Medical Technician

July 2021 – August 2023

- Provided immediate medical assistance during emergencies, ensuring the stabilization and safety of patients in high-pressure situations.
- Maintained accurate patient records and medical logs, facilitating seamless communication between medical teams for effective treatment.
- Acquired comprehensive training in trauma management and emergency care at the Military Medical Institute, demonstrating readiness for critical scenarios.
- Conducted over 20 emergency simulations with live CPR manikins and dummies.

Tradition Energy Singapore

Singapore

Middle Office Analyst Intern

September 2020 – May 2021

- Assisted in the management and facilitation of high-volume financial transactions between internal departments and external clients, ensuring timely settlements during high-pressure situations
- Spearheaded the onboarding of 20+ international clients, streamlining existing SOPs by incorporating digital documenting systems
- Coordinated with trading desks and operations teams to ensure accurate execution of high-volume trades, streamlining the process to reduce errors, and improving overall operational efficiency
- Worked closely with the London HQ and other regional offices to ensure smooth transactions across time zones, improving coordination and communication between global offices, reducing time-lag in work output

SKILLS, ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

Technologies: Python, SQL, Java, R, VBA, Tableau, Figma, Microsoft Excel, Word & Powerpoint

Spoken Languages: English (Native), Chinese Mandarin (Intermediate), French (Basic)

Certifications & Training: Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Foundations

Competitions: Deloitte, WireCard FinTech, YouCard, Sustainability exchange

Interests: Running, Squash, Basketball, Cooking