

Ms Lucy Sherr  
Flat 3, Rosebery Hall  
London, EC2A 1HP

Graduate Recruitment Team  
Human Resources Division  
Financial Services Ltd  
15 The Street, London  
WCER 5YP

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Audit Graduate Scheme Vacancy**

I'm currently a postgraduate student studying for an MSc in Operational Research at LSE and am writing to apply for the above role as advertised on LSE CareerHub. Financial Services (FS), one of the world's most powerful professional services firms would be a fantastic place to start my career. Gaining insights into a multi-dimensional business and working alongside talented individuals to develop my skills and stay at the cutting edge of my chosen specialty greatly appeals. I have been lucky enough to meet FS representatives at a presentation held by the firm at LSE this year and I was inspired by their enthusiasm, professionalism and substantial experience. I was particularly impressed with FS's commitment to investing in staff by closing all offices for the day and bringing together 10,000 employees for the "FS100 event" last year. When reading about this event I was reminded of an additional course I took last year in human resources. I learnt about the factors that can help energise employee behaviour which included being rewarded for their efforts with away days and feeling part of the organisation's development and strategy.

Audit particularly appeals due to the need to continually learn by staying abreast of regulatory changes and completing the ACA qualification. I am also attracted by the variety of organisations and sectors you would learn about through the audit process. I have already had diverse work experience within the insurance, fast moving consumer goods, education and real estate industries. I look forward to experiencing other sectors and am confident that my existing knowledge will assist me in understanding the broad range of businesses within which FS operates.

FS's clients include the world's most prominent institutions. Working at FS will put me in touch with these leading companies and provide me with a chance to develop my client interaction skills. During my internship within the Actuarial department of China Life I learnt the importance of maintaining strong client relationships as I was part of a team that secured a large contract for a piece of follow-up work from a project we had been working on analysing employees' retirement statistics and mortality in order for the client to make a valid pension product choice. I communicated regularly with the client via email and phone to ensure our work met their requirements. I anticipated a problem with our calculations and brought the solution to the client before they had thought that this might be an issue.

Outside of my academic studies and work experience I have enjoyed being part of successful teams through society involvement. I recently initiated a fundraising activity with 20 students for the Unicef Tsunami Relief Fund. We set ourselves a target of raising £6,000 within two weeks in order to be able to significantly contribute to a number of vulnerable families. We brainstormed fundraising strategies as a team and I came up with the idea of replacing our current bucket collection approach with a 'door-to-door' strategy. After one week of fundraising we came together as a team as some team members had been struggling with achieving donations. I suggested that we share success stories to encourage each other and develop fundraising good practice. This helped team members overcome their fundraising challenges and at the end of the two weeks we successfully raised over £7,000.

I hope the above demonstrates my suitability for this position. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Lucy Sherr