

In an ever-changing, unstable global economy where mistakes are unforgiving and information misleading, it takes a strict and social combination of intuition and application to anticipate and maneuver through the most intractable complications. As economists, our journey fundamentally parallels that of our earliest explorers and pioneers, drifting in an infinite sea of rapidly developing real-world problems, searching tirelessly for that uncharted land (policy) and its parameters—parameters that go on to determine the validity and the future effects of this land (policy). And in that sense, econometrics fosters not only my understanding of how human behavior applies to the financial sector, but also my desire to explore those uncharted territories. The mystery of it all can cast a clouded darkness over our economy, leaving us probing through a labyrinth of misleading data and theory. We are constantly thrust into this maze of numbers, and it is our duty to unearth the facts and manipulate the data that may illuminate the mysteries hiding in the dark.

Pushing boundaries and defining parameters are what drives our economies forward. Without adequate data, it is impossible to test a hypothesis through the scientific methods of data analysis. This tested hypothesis could go on to measure the impact of economic policies and the real-world application of its theories. That scientific and mathematical process has always driven me, dating back to my early days of coding and algorithm generation. I was always trying to identify objectives and targets—looking for ways to improve the world through mathematics. Seeing a problem through its solution—the correct solution—is something that always brought me great satisfaction.

This penchant for exploration has always been a part of my academic philosophy. In my thesis in electrical engineering, I developed a way to analyze the EEG (sleep) patterns of patients' brains. From there, I read *Principles of Economics* by N. Gregory Mankiw, and was deeply impressed by his explication of Volcker's solution to the 1979 inflation crisis. Essentially, that propelled me to quit my job in New York and begin my master's in economics, wherein one of my econometric analyses sought to measure the influence of energy deregulation on electricity price—of which I found no consistent relationship. What's more, in my time-series econometrics class, I did an empirical analysis on the debt, growth and unemployment rates in OECD countries, finding that deficits generally hinder GDP growth and exacerbate unemployment rates. All of my projects led me to one certain conclusion: the best way to determine the effect of a policy is by collecting real data and utilizing advanced econometric tools to draw conclusions. Optimizing these tools and techniques is crucial in revealing the detrimental issues that disallow the progression of our economic society.

Still, as rigorous a background as I have in mathematics, I understand that cross-cultural sensitivity is imperative to novel research and tactical adjustments. As economists, we must be prepared to adjust our scopes and immerse ourselves in the struggles of others in order to determine the “hows” and the “whys,” and not solely rely on our empirical analysis. Numbers alone can be misleading—and mysterious. My time spent living in various parts of the world has given me a wide economic perspective. As much as the empirical results of my projects captivated me, the authentic desire to make a difference in our society, a contribution to academia and real-world policy, impassioned me even further.

As I look to further my education with a PhD, I hope to use my training to make a difference in the world—to be as bold and brave as our founding pioneers once were, searching for those parameters and cutting to the truths that will go on to shape our policies, and hence, our lives. Creation and identification is what determines our societal advancement, and in that sense, the gap between economics and the rest of the world is closing quickly. Ultimately, our work—coding algorithms in Matlab and Stata, identifying patterns, analyzing parameters, etc.—at its rawest level, seeks to improve

lives, and driving for that humane motivation is something that will always transcend numbers and variables.

My hope is to work in a setting with genuine people who exhibit a passion for coaching and cultivation. Such a lively academic environment will provide a twofold benefit—the opportunity to learn and collaborate with an array of scholars, and the chance to pursue groundbreaking research. **At ____ school.... Include why this school, what you'd like to specialize in, how your current research aligns with the program, and what specific teacher/mentor you'd like to work with/under (information omitted for personal/identity reasons).**

With a PhD behind me, I would like to work as a high-level economic policy advisor and continue contributing to the evolving research in our field.

During my doctorate schooling, I hope to demonstrate the passion, determination, commitment, skill and intuition necessary to become a renowned contributor in the field of economics. With such, I intend to fulfill my obligation to society and to my future school, for giving me the opportunity to excel in its program.

Thank you for considering my application for your program.