

Early Career Guide: Quantitative Finance

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0 Introduction

This guide is intended to help those looking for an early start in quantitative finance. Oftentimes, some of the top firms like to offer underclassmen the opportunity to get accustomed to their work, resulting in several day/week-long events where prospective talents engage in friendly competition, learn skills and techniques, and bolster their resume.

These discovery days and early career programs often provide significant benefits for the following recruitment cycle, including **earlier applications, referrals, and guaranteed interviews**. I highly recommend taking note of the opportunities that are applicable to you and applying to as many of these programs as you can. Section headers denote the type of firm that offers these programs, which have been discussed in an earlier guide.

Generally speaking, if firms believe you to be a suitable candidate, you will receive an OA (Online Assessment). **I advise taking these ASAP**, as spots fill up quickly, and quant firms move fast. You don't need perfect scores to move to the next stage - just try your best and be careful. Different firms offer different OAs; Optiver tends to offer challenging reaction-time mini games, mental math challenges, and fast-paced probability questions, whereas SIG tends to offer more technical + financial knowledge assessments.

Should you pass the OA, firms will typically begin with a behavioral screen, asking questions about collaboration, perseverance, and overcoming challenges (soft skills). After this, technical interviews are often conducted, which again, vary widely. The entire process may take weeks, or even months, given the large magnitude of applicants for these programs. It's important to remember this: **rejection does not define you**. It's very likely you'll face tens, hundreds, and possibly thousands of rejection emails and messages - breaking into quant is **not easy**. Oftentimes though, the skills gained from applying earlier will prove to be highly beneficial for internship recruitment cycles in later years, along with early networking among campus recruiters. Hopefully this list of programs helps you discover some interesting opportunities! Feel free to let me know about any other opportunities at **bago2007@tamu.edu!**

1 High Frequency Trading Firms (HFT)

1.1 Virtu

1.1.1 Virtu Financial Women's Winternship

- <https://www.virtu.com/wids-2025/>
- Program opens during the **summer**, and takes place during the **winter**
- **1-2 week long program, offered in NYC, Dublin, and Signapore**
- Exclusive to **women or those who identify as such**

1.2 Hudson River Trading

1.2.1 Explore HRT

- <https://www.hudsonrivertrading.com/student-opportunities/>
- Applicable for **second-year undergraduates** interested in quantitative trading
- Recommended for less experienced students, includes hands-on workshops, tech talks, and networking opportunities
- Travel and accommodation will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions (typically Spring)
- Locations in NYC

1.2.2 Inside HRT

- <https://www.hudsonrivertrading.com/student-opportunities/>
- Applicable for **first and second-year undergraduates** interested in quantitative trading
- Recommended for more experienced students, includes tech talks, mentorship, and a deeper dive into HRT's systems
- Travel and accommodation will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions (typically Spring)
- Locations in NYC, London, and Signapore

1.3 Jump Trading

1.3.1 Jump Early Access

- https://www.jumptrading.com/hr/job?gh_jid=7746320
- Applicable for **first year undergraduates** interested in quantitative trading
- Involves talks from employees, hands-on interactive activities, networking, and peer engagement
- Travel and accommodation will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions (typically late Spring)
- Locations in Chicago

2 Proprietary Trading Firms

2.1 Jane Street

2.1.1 FOCUS

- <https://www.janestreet.com/join-jane-street/programs-and-events/focus/>
- Applicable for **first-year undergraduates who have experienced barriers to accessing advanced STEM educational opportunities**
- Involves tailored classes, team-based mock trading simulation games, and competitions
- Travel, accommodation, and a daily stipend will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC and London**

2.1.2 FTTP (First-Year Trading and Technology Program)

- <https://www.janestreet.com/join-jane-street/programs-and-events/fttp/>
- Applicable for **first-year undergraduates**
- Involves tailored classes, team-based mock trading simulation games, and competitions
- Travel, accommodation, and a daily stipend will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC, London, and Hong Kong**

2.1.3 IN FOCUS

- <https://www.janestreet.com/join-jane-street/programs-and-events/in-focus/>
- Applicable for **undergraduates and graduate students who have experienced barriers to accessing advanced STEM educational opportunities**
- Three tracks for students: trading, software engineering, and SP program
 - **Trading:** students learn about mathematical and financial topics through lectures, peer games, and mock trading competitions
 - **Software Engineering:** students learn about JS tools and libraries, then practice by writing backend and UI for computer games and a virtual stock trader
 - **Strategy + Product:** students explore various JS departments and analyze case studies to learn how full-time SPs optimize workflow
- Travel, accommodation, and a daily stipend will be provided for accepted students

- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC**

2.1.4 INSIGHT

- <https://www.janestreet.com/join-jane-street/programs-and-events/insight/>
- Applicable for **women, transgender, and/or gender expansive individuals**
- Three tracks for students: trading+research, software engineering, and SP program
 - **Trading + Research:** students learn about mathematical and financial topics through lectures, peer games, and mock trading competitions, along with gaining exposure to machine learning and JS modeling/research
 - **Software Engineering:** students learn about JS concepts, tools, and skills through talks + hands-on activities, and work closely with full-time JS developers to gain experience with programming fundamentals, principles, and practices
 - **Strategy + Product:** students explore various JS departments and analyze case studies to learn how full-time SPs optimize workflow and manage JS mechanics
- Travel, accommodation, and a daily stipend will be provided for accepted students
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC, London, and Hong Kong**

2.1.5 JSIP

- <https://www.janestreet.com/join-jane-street/programs-and-events/jsip/>
- Applicable for **undergraduate students in their 1st/2nd year who have SWE aspirations, and have experienced barriers to CS access and opportunity**
- JSIP fellows will learn and develop programming skills in a collaborative environment; each JSIP fellow will be awarded 12500 dollars for future educational opportunities
- First-year applications are **non-rolling**, second-year applications are **rolling**
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC**

2.2 Citadel Securities

2.2.1 Discover Citadel Securities

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/discover-citadel-security-apply/>
- Applicable for **first and second-year undergraduate students**
- 2 day event where students can learn about Citadel Securities' workflow, network with upper leadership, compete with peers, and gain insight into future career opportunities
- Travel and accommodation will be covered by Cit. Sec. + winners will receive prizes
- Locations in **NYC, Hong Kong, London, and Singapore**

2.2.2 Citadel Securities Datathons

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/datathons/>
- Applicable for **first and second-year undergraduate students**
- Participants work with large datasets, and build data-driven apps to develop real solutions to socially impactful problems
- Team matching and organization is organized by Citadel Securities and partnering universities, and select winners will receive cash prizes and interview opportunities
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- **Locations vary by event**

2.2.3 Terminal

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/terminal/>
- Applicable for **undergraduate and graduate students**
- Selected students program game algorithms within teams and compete against each other in a head-to-head, round-robin tournament for cash prizes
- Team matching and organization is organized by Citadel Securities
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- **Locations vary by event**

2.2.4 Ignite Women's Trading Program

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/ignite-womens-trading>
- Applicable for **second-year undergraduate self-identifying women interested in exploring a career in trading**
- A weeklong introductory program where chosen students learn about market making, develop their trading skills, and network with the Citadel Securities team
- Travel and accomodation will be covered by Cit. Sec. + potential mentorship
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC**

2.2.5 Citadel Securities Quant Invitational

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/the-citadel-securities-quant-invitational>
- Applicable for **second-year undergraduate students interested in modeling**
- Weeklong team challenge where participants work together to create market models for a chance to win **10,000 dollars**
- Travel and accomodation will be covered by Cit. Sec. + potential mentorship
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **London**

2.2.6 Citadel Securities Trading Invitational

- <https://www.citadelsecurities.com/careers/programs-and-events/the-trading-invitational>
- Applicable for **first and second-year undergraduate students interested in markets and quantitative trading**
- 2 day event where students apply their quantitative abilities to custom simulated scenarios, whilst gaining insights into the daily life of Citadel Securities QTs
- Travel and accommodations will be covered by Cit. Sec. + winners will receive prizes
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **NYC**

2.3 IMC

2.3.1 IMC Launchpad

- <https://www.imc.com/us/careers/students-graduates/programs/launchpad>
- <https://www.imc.com/eu/careers/students-graduates/programs/launchpad>
- Applicable for **second-year undergraduate students interested in Software Engineering or Quantitative trading roles at IMC**
- Exclusive, two-day discovery program where selected students will fast-track their progress for future opportunities, gain exclusive insight into IMC, and sharpen their technical skills with their peers
- Travel and accommodations will be covered by IMC
- Check website link for upcoming sessions/cohorts
- Locations in **Chicago, Amsterdam**

2.3.2 Women in Trading & Technology

- <https://www.imc.com/eu/careers/students-graduates/programs/womens-talent>
- Applicable for **curious, problem-solving, women interested in pursuing a career at IMC**
- Two-day event where selected students gain insight into careers at IMC, develop their skills through custom workshops, and compete amongst peers in various challenges
- Travel and accommodations will be covered by IMC
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **Amsterdam**

2.3.3 IMC Prosperity

- <https://prosperity.imc.com/>
- Applicable for **all undergraduate students**
- Month long online competition where students across the globe compete to build the most powerful algorithm, winners receive cash prizes and select commendations
- Check website link for more information

2.4 Optiver

2.4.1 Optiver FutureFocus

- <https://optiver.com/global-futurefocus-program/>
- Applicable for **first and second-year undergraduate students**
- 5 day discovery event where students deepen their knowledge, build skills with experts, secure their future, experience Optiver, and grow their network
- Program has three tracks - Trading, Research, and Tech (each corresponding to their relative field of interest, QT, QR, QD, etc.)
- Travel and accommodation will be covered by Optiver
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **Chicago, Amsterdam, Sydney, Mumbai, Shanghai, and Singapore: Note that not all locations have every type of program**

2.5 Akuna

2.5.1 Options 101 Course

- <https://akunacapital.com/work-with-us/options-101/>
- Applicable for **everyone**
- Self-paced online course where individuals learn about options, open outcry, electronic trading, etc. in preparation for real trading
- Check website link for more information

2.5.2 Options 201 Course

- <https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/optionstrading201course/jobs/7394582>
- Applicable for **junior-year undergraduates**
- Virtual weekly online course where individuals delve deeper into content discussed in Options 101, familiarizing themselves with Akuna insiders
- Check website link for more information

2.6 SIG

2.6.1 SIG Discovery Days

- <https://careers.sig.com/discovery-programs?s=1>
- Applicable for **undergraduate students + graduate students**
- Onsite or Virtual 2-3 day events where selected participants travel to SIG firms and learn about trading, game theory, etc. whilst engaging in friendly competition
- Travel and accomodation will be covered by SIG
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations **vary by program**

2.7 5 Rings

2.7.1 5 Rings Wintern

- <https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/fiveringsllc/jobs/5122638008>
- Applicable for **first year undergraduate students**
- Intensive four-week internship running during January
- Housing and Pay covered by 5R
- Interns will work closely on R and D projects
- Locations in **New York**

2.8 Flow Traders

2.8.1 Flow Traders Ascent

- <https://www.flowtraders.com/careers>
- Applicable for **second year undergraduate students**
- Learn directly from industry experts, compete in a friendly trading competition, and connect with a driven network of traders
- Travel and accommodation covered
- Check website link for upcoming sessions
- Locations in **New York**

3 Hedge Funds - Multi Manager

3.1 Millennium

3.1.1 Meet Millennium

- <https://www.mlp.com/careers/students/>
- Applicable for **high-performing undergraduate and master's students**
- Selective multi-day, in-person discovery program across **five global offices**; participants tackle interactive technical challenges, engage in collaborative problem-solving, and network with quants, technologists, and senior analysts at the firm
- Designed as an immersive preview into Millennium's 2027 Summer Internship Program; strong performers are fast-tracked for internship consideration
- Travel and accommodation will be provided for accepted students
- Check website for upcoming cohort dates (applications open **February 2026** for the most recent cycle)
- Locations in **New York, London, Singapore, Dublin, and additional global offices**

3.2 Point72/Cubist

3.2.1 Future of Finance Accelerator

- <https://point72.com/point72-academy/>
- Applicable for **undergraduate students interested in an equities investing career (primarily sophomores, with APAC sessions targeting students 1–2 years from graduation)**
- Multi-week virtual immersion program where selected students learn the fundamentals of Point72’s investment process, complete a real-world case assignment with feedback from Academy coaches, and network with peers across universities
- Unpaid learning experience; **selected participants are eligible for consideration for Point72 Academy summer internship opportunities**
- Check website for upcoming US and APAC session dates
- Format is **virtual**; US and APAC tracks available

3.2.2 Cubist Quant Academy

- <https://point72.com/cubist/>
- Applicable for **undergraduate and graduate (MS/PhD) students in STEM fields graduating imminently**
- One-year rotational program for aspiring quantitative researchers and developers; participants rotate across multiple systematic trading teams, develop research and development skills, and gain exposure to the full trade life cycle
- Two tracks: **Researchers** (quantitative research, signal generation, portfolio construction) and **Developers** (trading platform, research infrastructure, low-latency systems)
- Check website for upcoming cohort application deadlines (typically **October** for a January start)
- Location in **New York**

3.3 WorldQuant

3.3.1 WorldQuant BRAIN Platform

- <https://www.worldquant.com/brain/>
- Applicable for **everyone (18+)**
- Free, self-paced online platform where users build and backtest “alpha” mathematical models using historical market data, tools, and 125,000+ data fields; top performers may be offered positions as **paid BRAIN Research Consultants**
- In-depth educational bootcamp, mentorship from experienced quants, and access to the WorldQuant community are included
- Check website for more information

3.3.2 International Quant Championship (IQC)

- <https://www.worldquant.com/brain/iqc/>
- Applicable for **all undergraduate students and early-career professionals (teams of 1–4 from the same university)**
- Annual three-stage global competition running from **March through September**; teams build and backtest quantitative alpha models on the BRAIN platform, competing for a **\$100,000 prize pool**
- Top-performing teams are invited to compete in-person at the **Global Finals** (typically held in **Singapore**); strong performers may be considered for research consulting, internship, or full-time employment at WorldQuant
- The 2026 IQC saw approximately **80,000 participants** globally
- Format is **fully online** for all stages except the Global Finals

4 Hedge Funds - Centralized

4.1 Bridgewater

4.1.1 Rising Fellows Program

- <https://www.bridgewater.com/risingfellowsprogram>
- Applicable for **first-year undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds** (including women, LGBTQIA+, first-generation students, and students from HBCUs and diverse universities)
- Three-week virtual program covering an introduction to the finance industry and Bridgewater's role within it, skills development (presenting, public speaking, financial analysis), and networking with Bridgewater executives and senior investors
- Completing the program grants Fellows continued engagement with Bridgewater, including invitations to speaker series and priority consideration for the **Investment Immersion Program** in their sophomore year
- Check website for upcoming sessions (typically runs **February–March**)
- Format is **virtual**

4.1.2 Investment Immersion Program

- <https://www.bridgewater.com/bridgewater-immersion-macro-investing>
- Applicable for **second-year (sophomore) undergraduate students**
- Three-day on-site program at Bridgewater's campus; participants gain exposure to Bridgewater's unique culture and macroeconomic investment process, attend classes based on Bridgewater's investing training curriculum, participate in a live trading game and trade pitch workshop, and receive interview coaching for the summer internship program
- Travel and hotel accommodations (up to two nights) are fully covered by Bridgewater
- Strong performers are fast-tracked for Bridgewater's **summer internship**
- Check website for upcoming sessions (a January 2026 cohort was offered)
- Location in **Westport, Connecticut**

4.2 AQR

4.2.1 AQR Discovery

- <https://careers.aqr.com/jobs/open-positions/greenwich-ct/aqr-discovery-early-engagement-7611807>
- Applicable for **undergraduate sophomores** graduating in December 2028 or Spring 2029, pursuing a quantitative field (Finance, Economics, CS, Math, Engineering, etc.)
- One-day, on-site experience offering early exposure to quantitative finance and AQR's investment process; program includes firm and business overviews, deep dives into Research, Portfolio Implementation, and Trading, an applied analytics talk, and networking with researchers and former interns
- Also includes an overview of AQR's full recruiting process and a guided office tour
- Check website for upcoming event dates (an **April 2026** session was offered)
- Location in **Greenwich, Connecticut**

5 Banks

5.1 Morgan Stanley

5.1.1 Early Insights Program

- <https://www.morganstanley.com/people-opportunities/students-graduates>
- Applicable for **freshman and sophomore undergraduate students**
- Virtual multi-week program providing selected students with workshops, networking opportunities with Morgan Stanley professionals, and resume/interview preparation; participants also gain access to the **first stage of the Summer Analyst recruiting process**
- Tracks available include: Investment Banking & Global Capital Markets, Sales, Trading & Research, Investment Management & Wealth Management, Technology, and Corporate Functions
- Check website for upcoming sessions (typically **January–February**)
- Format is **virtual**; US-based

5.2 Goldman Sachs

5.2.1 Possibilities Series

- <https://www.goldmansachs.com/careers/students/programs-and-internships/americas/possibilities-summits>
- Applicable for **first-year undergraduate students** (graduating December 2028–May 2029 for the 2026 cycle)
- Year-long virtual program that runs from **January through December**; participants attend monthly webinars, receive resume and interview preparation guidance, and network with Goldman Sachs professionals across all divisions
- High-performing participants (current sophomores) are invited to apply for an **Early Placement (EP) track**, which provides a fast-track to Summer Analyst Superdays; open to all first-year undergraduates regardless of background
- Applications open **February 1, 2026** for the current cycle
- Format is **virtual**; US-based

5.3 Bank of America

5.3.1 Global Investment Banking Sophomore Summer Analyst Program

- <https://careers.bankofamerica.com/en-us/students/campus-experience>
- Applicable for **sophomore undergraduate students** (graduating December 2026–June 2027 for the 2025 cycle)
- 10-week paid summer analyst program for sophomores; participants are placed within an industry, country, or product coverage team and receive formal training, on-the-job mentorship, networking with senior professionals, and educational speaker events throughout
- Open to all eligible sophomores regardless of background; Bank of America particularly encourages students from historically underrepresented groups to apply
- Check website for application opening dates (typically opens in **early fall** for the following summer)
- Locations in **New York and other major US offices**

5.4 JP Morgan

5.4.1 Spring Insight Program

- <https://careers.jpmorgan.com/us/en/students/programs/spring-insights>
- Applicable for **first-year, sophomore, and junior undergraduate students**
- One-day to multi-week immersive event (format varies by location) where participants attend workshops, speaker series, and networking events to learn about JPMorgan's businesses and career opportunities; includes simulated work experiences and sessions with senior leaders
- Strong participants **may be fast-tracked for summer internship interviews**
- Check website for upcoming session locations and dates (typically **Spring**)
- Locations **vary by program**; global offices available

5.4.2 Career.edYOU Academy

- <https://www.jpmorganchase.com/careers/explore-opportunities/programs/career-edyou>
- Applicable for **sophomore undergraduate students** studying in the United States
- Selective, virtual semester-long educational program; participants attend live sessions with recruiters and business representatives, learn about the firm's culture and career paths across Finance and Technology, and are prepared for JPMorganChase's internship recruiting process
- Tracks include **Global Technology (Software Engineering and Data Science)** and general finance pathways
- Check website for upcoming cohort application dates
- Format is **virtual**; US-based

5.5 Citi

5.5.1 Freshman Discovery Program

- <https://www.citigroup.com/global/careers/students-and-graduates>
- Applicable for **first-year undergraduate students**
- Short virtual workshop series (3 days for the 2025 cycle: May 20–22) designed to help early college students explore career paths in financial services, build foundational skills, and network with Citi professionals
- Participants are selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, and leadership potential; open to all disciplines
- Check website for upcoming session dates (typically **spring**)
- Format is **virtual**; US-based

5.5.2 Early ID Leadership Program

- <https://www.citigroup.com/global/careers/students-and-graduates>
- Applicable for **sophomore undergraduate students** (minimum 3.3 GPA recommended)
- Intensive 5-week virtual program where selected students receive an educational overview of Citi's businesses (Institutional Clients Group, Consumer, and Functions), 1-on-1 mentorship, best-in-class technical and soft-skills training, and **tailored interview preparation for Summer Analyst programs**
- Students may select up to **two lines of business** to align with; inclusion network tracks (e.g., Women's Leadership, Black Heritage, Hispanic Heritage, Veterans, Pride) are available and open to all students
- Check website for upcoming program cohort dates (typically **winter/spring**)
- Format is **virtual**; US-based

5.6 Deutsche Bank

5.6.1 dbDevelop

- <https://careers.db.com/students-graduates/insight-programmes/us/develop>
- Applicable for **sophomore students from diverse backgrounds** (including women, Black, Hispanic/Latinx, LGBTQI+, veterans, people with disabilities, and those who demonstrate a commitment to diversity)
- Two-day on-site event covering an introduction to Deutsche Bank, divisional deep-dive training sessions, panels and breakout networking sessions with senior colleagues and recent graduates, and resume/interview preparation
- Program concludes with a group presentation project completed collaboratively with fellow participants
- Designed as a pipeline to Deutsche Bank's Global Analyst Training Program; check website for upcoming session dates
- Locations **vary by program** (US-based)

5.6.2 DB Discover

- <https://careers.db.com/students-graduates/insight-programmes/>
- Applicable for **undergraduate students** interested in learning about investment banking and financial services
- Insight event series designed to prepare participants for Deutsche Bank's Global Analyst Training or Associate Programs; includes introductory sessions on Deutsche Bank's products and services as well as its inclusive culture
- Check website for upcoming events and locations; format and duration **vary by location**
- Locations **vary by program** (US and international offices)

5.7 Barclays

5.7.1 Banking Analyst Discovery Program

- <https://search.jobs.barclays/discovery>
- Applicable for **sophomore undergraduate students** (graduating December 2026–June 2027 for the 2025 cycle); open to **all degree disciplines**; minimum 3.2 GPA recommended
- Two-day in-person immersive program; Day 1 includes seminars, workshops, networking events with senior leaders and graduates, and breakout sessions by business area (Banking, Markets, Technology); **Day 2 includes two assessment interviews for a Summer 2026 Internship**
- Particularly encourages applications from women, LGBTQ+, military veterans, first-generation students, and students from underrepresented racial/ethnic backgrounds, though all eligible sophomores are welcome to apply
- Participants may be fast-tracked for consideration for the **2027 summer internship**
- Check website for upcoming session dates
- Locations include **New York and San Francisco** (US); UK locations also available

5.8 Wells Fargo

5.8.1 Sophomore Experience (formerly Sophomore Discovery Fellowship Program)

- <https://talent.wellsfargojobs.com/flows/sdfp2026>
- Applicable for **sophomore undergraduate students** (graduating December 2027–May/June 2028 for the 2026 cycle); must be authorized to work in the US; minimum 6 months of work/educational experience recommended
- Competitive 6-week paid summer fellowship combining a one-week technical and soft-skills induction with structured job shadowing, capstone project work, and cross-business networking; an **Executive Speaker Series** and lunch-and-learn sessions are included
- Paid (\$25/hour in Charlotte; \$30/hour in New York); **corporate housing is provided at no cost**
- Participants gain exposure to business lines such as Commercial Banking, Corporate & Investment Banking, Internal Audit, and Technology
- Applications typically open in **late fall/early winter**; check website or join the talent community for notifications
- Locations in **Charlotte, NC and New York, NY**