BMO Equity Through Education Program with the FWA Graduate School Partnerships Committee

2021 Baruch College Finance Training and Stipend Recipients
This fall, BMO and the FWA Graduate School Partnerships Committee provided a stipend to 15 Masters-level students from underprivileged and underrepresented backgrounds at Baruch College's Zicklin School of Business.

In addition, BMO and the FWA Graduate School Partnerships Committee provided the following finance-focused curriculum to almost 200 Baruch College students:

- *Training the Street* Applied Excel
- Financial Markets Training by KLD Training
- *Training the Street* Corporate Valuation

In the next pages, the 15 stipend recipients shared how the curriculum helped their knowledge of finance, while expressing their gratitude to BMO and the FWA Graduate School Partnerships Committee for the generous support on behalf of all students from Baruch College.
Mariia Ammosova (MS Finance)

Thank you for this opportunity to be a part of the BMO FWA Finance Careers Training and Stipend Program. It was inspiring to learn from finance professionals, acquiring skills in advanced Excel tools at the Applied Excel Boot Camp. All three parts of the training were very useful. The most valuable part for me was Corporate Valuation training. We had exercised real-world examples, like Cadbury valuation, exposed to different methodologies, enterprise value and equity value, DCF Analysis.

Latanya Anderson (MBA ‘23)

https://www.linkedin.com/in/latanya-anderson/

The BMO FWA Finance Careers Training has significantly helped improve my understanding of the financial markets and has equipped me with some practical skillsets that are fundamental to the success of my career. The Corporate Valuation Training expanded my knowledge on various valuation methodologies using real-life cases. The Excel Training exposed me to more sophisticated formulas and keyboard shortcuts that has helped to improve my overall efficiency. The Financial Markets Training was instrumental in providing key insights into how the Financial Industry operates. This engagement has helped to strengthen my value proposition and has given me the confidence I need as I apply for summer internships and full-time opportunities.

Thank you so much BMO and FWA!
Mariluz Batista (MS Taxation '22)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariluzbatista/

Attending the BMO FWA Finance Careers Training and Stipend Program has been very beneficial to me. Through each training session, I was able to learn about a different area within business starting off with what I believe to be one of the most fundamental aspects, Excel. From the Excel training, I was able to learn ways to work in Excel that can make me a more productive businesswoman. While each training covered something different, they all came together very cohesively and gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge. Much of my career and finance education has been self-taught and through amazing programs like this that give me the opportunity to learn about topics that are not common knowledge in my household. With programs like this, I am able to advance my education and continue striving for a successful career in finance.

Nitya Dwivedi (MBA '22)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/nyitadwivedi/

The BMO FWA Finance Careers Training came at the right time for me. The Excel training covered a lot of important tricks and tips, which I have already started using in my coursework. I can imagine how handy it will be in the post-MBA roles I am aspiring for in the finance sector. The Financial markets and Corporate valuation sessions took the theoretical route but included real-life examples to understand the topic. The training helped boost my confidence to handle the interview questions in these areas.

Thank you to BMO and FWA for their support!
Cameron Hay (MS Accountancy '22)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/cameron-hay-8109b61a5/

Being a part of the BMO FWA Finance Careers Training and Stipend program really opened my eyes and made a difference in my future. Each training taught me new lessons. The first Excel training was the most beneficial for me. I have a position secured after graduate school and this training really helped me to learn new shortcuts that will allow me to be more efficient in future projects. The Financial Markets Training and Corporate Valuation opened my eyes to more opportunities that my degree could afford me. The trainings also made me realize how interesting it is to work in different markets and step outside of your comfort zone.

Melanie Hurley (MBA ‘23)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/melanie-hurley/

Having an undergraduate degree in Marketing, I wasn’t sure if I wanted to continue pursuing that further or to concentrate my MBA degree in Finance. The BMO FWA Finance Careers Training and Stipend program was able to provide clarity that a Finance career would be a great fit for me. Karyn Giampaolo’s training helped me understand the various sectors of finance as a business, and broke them down in such a way that I was able to identify which areas to explore further as a potential future job role. Because the finance industry is new to me, I began taking courses with complete uncertainty, but Karyn’s training allowed me to narrow down my career path options and left me feeling confident on where to proceed as I continue my MBA journey and advance my career.
Young Sin (Joanna) Kim (MS Finance '23)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/youngsinkim1004/

Through the training sponsored by BMO and the FWA, I was empowered by the resources and sessions focused on the essentials of business and finance. The Finance Boot Camp held by Karyn Dobin-Giampaolo gave a run down of everything I needed to know about capital markets. Her passion to teach real-life applications of finance after years of experience really spoke to me. The Applied Excel Boot Camp equipped me with many skills I need. Overall, I grew as a student and a future employee through the sessions. May thanks to BMO and FWA for this opportunity!

Shuk Man (Kerensa) Lam (MS Info Systems '21)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/kerensalam/

Combining my data analytics and accounting background, my career goal is to become a Financial Analyst. Attending these trainings allowed me to learn more practical skills, such as advanced Excel functions and Corporate Valuation methods. It was also a great opportunity for me to gain insights and network with other students and professionals in the finance field virtually. This program was a valuable experience for me to prepare myself for career in business and finance world. Thank you to BMO and the FWA for providing such a great opportunity!
Tetiana Maksymenko (MS Finance '22)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/tetiana-maksymenko/

I would like to thank BMO and FWA for organizing such an amazing training for graduate students at Baruch College. The material was very interesting and useful about skills and careers in the financial services industry. I particularly enjoyed the Applied Excel Boot Camp where I improved my Excel skills, and learned how to work with a large data and interpret the results. The It provided me a new perspective on the financial market.

Camila Paniza (MBA '23)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/camilapaniza/

Being part of the BMO and FWA Finance Careers Training Program makes me believe that there are always opportunities out there waiting for those who are willing to run the extra mile. As a Latina and aspiring leader in financial services, I am extremely grateful for this training because I feel more prepared and confident when it is time to go out there and show what I can do. Having developed essential technical skills such as Applied Excel and Corporate Valuation is very helpful when interviewing for a finance role.

Thank you very much!
Polina Zviagintceva (MS Info Systems '22)

I am very interested in FinTech. I worked in banking previously, and I was looking to expand my knowledge. That's how I decided to get my Master’s in Information Systems at Baruch College. I was really happy to be a part of the BMO FWA Finance Careers Training and Stipend Program. All attended courses significantly helped me improve my financial knowledge and master my Excel skills. I hope that in my future career I will be able to bring this experience to add value to an innovative team environment.

Diego Mora Rojas (MS Info Systems '23)

https://www.linkedin.com/in/diego-mora-rojas/

One of the biggest hurdles when starting a career in Finance is the lack of real-world experience performing certain tasks. For example, using Excel to parse through large quantities of data, or understanding the way companies are valued with real information. The BMO and FWA Finance Career training program was a great opportunity to overcome this hurdle. The workshops used real-life information and trained students on how to conduct these tasks in a manner that is efficient and accurate. This will help me overcome hurdles and help me towards my future career in Finance.
Michael Perez (MS Statistics '23)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-rey-perez/

Being a part of the BMO and FWA Finance Careers Training made a real difference in my career already. I had an interview with an investment bank about two hours after the second training session, which covered how banking different areas inside a firm serve different functions. Too often are up-and-coming graduates confused by the complexity of finance, but the ability to meet members of this industry and learn from them how the industry is structured is valuable for any candidate seeking to be a part of this sector. I accepted the offer with the firm, and will be starting next year with them. Thank you BMO and FWA!

Mamadou Sow (MS Statistics, Data Science '22)
https://www.linkedin.com/in/mamadou-s-114702137/

I would like to thank BMO and FWA for hosting the Finance Training program at Baruch, which has better shaped my understanding of Finance. I realized the importance of calculating financial metrics through Excel functions and shortcuts to analyze information for a company, like using the INDEX and MATCH functions to derive the sales of specific products. More importantly, I gained knowledge on the synergy of resources and other aspects of Corporate Finance, which are fundamental to answering interview questions for those roles. Lastly, I learned to answer questions and become an active participant in group discussions, which help promote dialogue and knowledge of financial concepts.

Thank you again!
Charles Pierce Reynolds (MBA '23)

https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-pierce-reynolds-20a193177/

The BMO and FWA Finance Careers Training was instrumental to my confidence during interviews and networking events. It strengthened my vocabulary in a way that allows me to share my potential with prospective employers and helped me realize where best to focus in my studies. Without this program, I would not have as quickly developed a plan for my career in the finance industry.

Thank you to the BMO Equity Through Education Program with the FWA Graduate School Partnerships Committee for making such an impact on Baruch College’s students!