

Career Sheet: Financial Educator



Felice Oliviero (Financial Educator & Analyst)

I graduated in Business Economics with a major in Finance and Control at the Federico II University of Naples, I obtained a Master's in Accounting, Auditing, and Control at the Luigi Bocconi Commercial University in Milan. From October 2017 until April 2022, I worked at the firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) dealing with the audit of financial statements of large international and listed groups. I worked on financial due diligence projects for merger and acquisitions (M&A) transactions. I currently deal with structured finance and debt advisory operations.



OVERVIEW OF THE JOB

The work I've been performing up to now is related to the audit of the financial statements¹ of companies. The financial statements of large companies must be subjected to auditing by an auditing firm or an auditor. The activity consists of verifying that the financial statements, so the numbers, as well as the documents, do not contain errors that could influence the decisions taken by the various stakeholders who read them.

Besides, I also execute financial due diligence activities² to support merger and acquisition operations between companies. More specifically, I conduct in-depth analysis of the financial statements of target companies with the aim of identifying the transfer value to the buyer.

The work I do requires knowledge of mathematics, financial mathematics, and statistics.



WHAT INSPIRED YOU

What inspired me was the courses I attended at university on budget analysis and company evaluation, which aroused my interest in understanding how much companies and businesses are worth. This requires both strategic analysis as well as the numerical analysis of past, present, and future data.



TYPICAL WORKING DAY

Before Covid, I often went to visit my clients to carry out preliminary analyses of the project, and all the work related to it. Post-covid, customer relations usually take place remotely, via video call.

¹ Financial statements (or financial reports) are formal records of the business activities and performance of a company (Source: [Investopedia](#)).

² In the world of finance, due diligence refers to an investigation of financial records before entering a proposed transaction with another party (Source: [Investopedia](#)).

I don't really have a typical day. My tasks are aligned with what the other people in the team are working on. My most common activities consist of reviewing open problems and trying to come up with a solution and of performing operational analyses on the various areas of my competence. There is also continuous management of emails – rather than calls – both to request information and to provide information to customers.

At the end of the day, I usually meet with my colleagues to follow up on the different activities and to address the problems that have emerged.



STUDY & CAREER PATH

I graduated in Business Economics at the Federico II University of Naples where I opted for a major in Administration, Finance, and Control – topics I chose for my optional exams. Then, instead of continuing with the canonical 2-year master's degree, I looked for a master's that was closer to the world of work, and I was admitted to the master's in Accounting, Auditing, and Control at the Luigi Bocconi Commercial University. I chose this master's because it included 17 exams to be carried out in 7 months, alternating with practical projects for each exam in connection to the world of work. The projects were performed with teams that varied from month to month and were formed by a university committee. To complete the master's, it was required to conduct a field project or an internship. During my studies, I was hired by PwC, the company where I started my career.

If I could start over, I would have changed the choice of a three-year postgraduate study, opting for a course in Economics, which would have trained me to conduct economic research and opt thus for qualified job positions in public and private organisations, banks, financial companies, and international organisations. In these places, quantitative skills applied to the prediction of macroeconomic and financial trends, to understand the effects of economic policies, are very much needed. For that reason, in my free time, I like to cultivate these skills and study economics, reading books and analysis reports.

Surely, my most rewarding experience was my master's because it allowed me to gain an understanding of the world of work while at university. This allowed me to improve some valuable skills such as problem management and interpersonal relations.



KEY SKILLS

The main skills needed for my job can be divided into two: technical skills and soft skills.

For technical, I'd refer to all skills inherent to accounting, such as budget analysis, construction of financial models, financial mathematics to update future cash flows, and statistics.

Besides, personal skills such as teamwork, management of stressful situations, leadership, adaptability, interpersonal skills, and communication are equally important.



CAREER PROSPECT

COORDINATOR

PREMIUM PARTNERS

GENERAL PARTNERS

With the aforementioned skills, I can perform jobs related to finance regardless of the sector, be it chemical, energy, pharmaceutical, etc.



CHALLENGES

I'd underline two main challenges: the management and solving of complex problems and the respect for project deadlines.



YOUR ADVICE TO STUDENTS

My advice to students is that if you want a job in STEM, choose a subject that intrigues you and build up skills in this area with the help of your teachers and professionals in that sector. Read, be curious and get information and, most of all, never stop "learning to learn" because the world of work is constantly changing.



YOUR ADVICE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS

I'd advice teachers and parents to try to relate as much as possible with current times and think about those to come, avoiding the classic phrase "in my time...". In my opinion, it's necessary to understand that what worked twenty, or thirty years ago might not work today. The world and society are changing at a high speed.

In addition, I consider students and children should be encouraged to experiment: they need to be wrong because only from mistakes you can learn and treasure the experience.



LEARN MORE

If you want to know more about Felice's career path and professional activity, look at its [LinkedIn profile](#).

If you want to learn about the work of other inspiring, young professionals such as Felice, check out the [Global Shapers Community](#).

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This career sheet was submitted by Sabrina Nappi and is among the winners of the STEM Alliance & STE(A)M IT - Professionals Go Back to Schools Competition 2022.

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