

SOP Sample For PhD in Harvard University

When I was young, I was always fascinated with numbers and calculations. As I grew into an adult, I became interested in the meaning hidden within the results of calculations. The field accounting deals with the financial status of a company or an individual. Having always loved math and accounting, I held an affinity towards this subject. Since the subject requires structure, efficiency and clear objectives, I knew that I wanted to pursue my career in this sector. However, I wish to work in the research avenue of accounts, and introduce discoveries that would contribute positively towards the sector and industries likewise. For this reason, I have decided to pursue a PhD in Accounting from the University of Harvard.

Reflecting on my academic journey, I realize that it has been a path filled with immense growth and improvement. I have completed a double bachelor's degree in science and business administration. The double majors of my program were information management and finance and management science. Due to the technical landscape entering and merging with the finance industry, I realized that I must further my knowledge through a different lens. This led me to pursue a Masters of Finance from the University of Melbourne where I gained intensive knowledge. I explored core modules such as Economics of Finance, Financial Statement Analysis, Fintech and Applied Machine learning in Finance. These learnings were instrumental in my journey to realizing my passion for accounting.

While pursuing my learning, I was actively seeking professional experience, too. My eagerness to expand my skillset led me to pursue a corporate banking internship at Fubon Bank. In this role, I was involved in conducting due diligence. Afterwards, I undertook a research project called 'Analysis of Taiwanese People's Willingness for Online Bank Accounts' Through this undertaking, I explored the factors influencing the adoption of online banking services in Taiwan. This study aimed to understand consumer behaviour, preferences, and concerns related to digital financial services in an increasingly technology-driven world. The project involved a comprehensive review of financial and technological trends, as well as primary data collection through surveys and interviews. I designed and distributed questionnaires to a diverse sample of participants, gathering data on their attitudes toward online banking, trust in digital platforms, and perceived benefits and risks. This research enhanced my ability to work with financial data, perform quantitative and qualitative analyses, and interpret results to derive actionable insights. It gave me my first experience in research and helped me realize my inclination towards this sector.

This experience helped me realize the importance of research in the financial industry and the importance of learning. Thus, to create innovations and understand accounting better, I have decided to pursue my PhD in Accounting

I would like to focus my research towards how changes in auditors, regulations, and accounting standards influence auditing quality, decision-making, internal controls, disclosures, and valuations. I am particularly interested in exploring the impact of evolving accounting standards

on the accuracy of stock price predictions across different countries. I am inspired by the study "Complementarity between Audited Financial Reporting and Voluntary Disclosure: The Case of Former Andersen Clients" by Dr. Yuan Zou, which examines the interplay between disclosure and financial reporting amid forced auditor changes, I aim to investigate how newer accounting standards, such as IFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements' introduced in April 2024, enhance analysts' ability to estimate intrinsic company values. My hypothesis is that these standards improve prediction accuracy regardless of geographic location. To test this, I plan to analyze data from the US, UK, and Australia using valuation methods such as Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Analysis, Comparable Company Analysis, Dividend Discount Model (DDM), and financial ratios like P/E, P/B, and P/S. This research seeks to evaluate the broader implications of standardized accounting practices on global financial markets and decision-making.

The reason I would like to pursue this undertaking at Harvard University is due to the excellent standards of research and learning at the institution. My passion for understanding the intricate role of accounting in business decision-making has urged me towards the institute. Harvard's emphasis on rigorous research methodologies and its collaborative environment with esteemed faculty align perfectly with my aspiration to contribute to impactful accounting standards. The university is home to some of the smartest individuals in the world, and I wish to learn and gain knowledge under them. I am particularly drawn to the program's integration of theoretical frameworks from economics and finance, which I believe will enhance my analytical skills. I would gain the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of scholars at Harvard who are passionate and curious to learn as well. This will allow me to explore innovative research questions that address real-world challenges in the field of accounting. Harvard produces some of the most impactful research in the world, and I would love for my research undertaking to be produced at the institute as well.

After completing the PhD program, I aim to pursue a career in academia and research. Initially, I aspire to take on a role as an Assistant Professor of Accounting at a leading university. This position will allow me to engage in teaching, conduct research, and mentor students while publishing in high-impact journals to advance the understanding of financial reporting, auditing, and disclosure practices. Then, I would transition into a leadership role within academia or research, such as Head of Accounting Research or Director of Financial Policy Studies, where

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Contact Us on : +91 7983630674