

Masters in Finance (full-time)

Participant profile

Name: Anthony Paul Raj

Job title: Director – Investments

Organisation: Angsana Darmawang, Kuala Lumpur

Career: Anthony graduated from the Masters in Finance programme in 1997 and went into options structuring. He followed this with business strategy, and then leverage, finance and in a startup, funding private equity buyouts in Europe. At the beginning of this year, he took up his current position in Kuala Lumpur, but still returned to London in June for his Masters in Finance ten-year reunion.



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London Business School had a considerable reputation for finance programmes. The first interaction I had with the School was a conversation with a member of the finance staff – a very helpful person who put me in touch with some alumni, one of whom interviewed me. What caught my attention was that these people were not only intellectual and successful – but also very down-to-earth and passionate about the School. The fundamental reason I chose the School was because of this quality, a programme that featured top notch professors and the fact that London was exposed to both European and Asian influences.

I was an actuarial trainee in an insurance company prior to the programme, and I wanted it to open up new avenues in finance for me, and change my thinking. It helped me to do this through case studies, where we looked at a variety of different angles to solve a problem, and also using

the experience of the Masters in Finance participants; as there were 60 of us, from different cultures, backgrounds, nationalities and mindsets. Part of a London Business School education is the opportunity to interact with talented people, which has served me well.

Giving up my job for ten months was great – I had no issues with that! There was apprehension in the first week, leaving my comfort zone, but I got over it quickly, and began absorbing the constant stream of new ideas.

The course allowed me to recognise and develop my own skills, and use them in the financial world. I continue to develop and adapt to new ideas and research coming from the School as I keep in touch through the Alumni Relations, which involves going to industry specific forums and topical lectures – when I worked in London I attended functions every other week.

I now work for a family investment company, looking at new opportunities in the private equity area. London Business School taught me that there's usually more than one way, and indeed there could be better ways, of looking at an opportunity. I can also leverage the alumni community globally – I can call friends to have an exchange of ideas on a particular investment theme. The whole idea of going to a business school is to make contacts you can trust for the future.

My advice to anyone considering the Masters in Finance trust for the future. today is to go in with an open mind, and be ready to test new avenues within finance.