



Finalists

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Adeline Nshuti

Country:

Belgium

University:

The KU Leuven Brussels

Degree:

Masters of International Business Economics and Management

Having been told by various teachers that she was not cut out for further studies and should set her sights lower, Adeline Nshuti is driven by learning as much as she can. This is evident from her impressive educational background, which includes a bachelor's degree in Business/Commerce and a master's degree in Business Administration. Currently, Adeline is on track to complete her master's in International Business Economics and Management. In addition, Adeline has spent time exploring different career opportunities, ranging from sales to marketing, but has come to realize her passion for finance, and believes her future lies in consulting.

"I enjoy studying economics, because it enables you to think and see things differently, but my favorite part is learning the financial aspects. This has really helped me to pick up on business and economic terminology that you hear about in the media or when reading about current affairs, and to understand why certain decisions are made," she noted.

Reflecting on her experience in the competition, she said: "While I had assumed corporate finance

was a difficult field to get into, it was my corporate finance lecturer at university who encouraged me to apply. I thought it would also be a great opportunity for me to learn more about consulting and EY, and that if I could understand more about transactions, it would only help open up more doors for me in the future."

"I was so glad I took my chance and entered the competition, as I learnt so much about TAS. Through the case study, I learnt that while every solution is possible, they all come with their own advantages and disadvantages. You must find the most suitable option, with the least disadvantages and take into consideration important factors such as employees and sustainability. And now, through my studies in economics and experience in this competition, I have a greater understanding of how businesses reach certain decisions, some of the discussions involved and how much depth there is to a transaction," she commented. "I am excited to explore more opportunities in corporate finance, and look forward to gaining exposure to areas such as mergers and acquisitions."



Ashmi Shah

Country:

United Kingdom

University:

University College London

Degree:

Bachelor of Economics and Business

Ashmi Shah has always enjoyed being creative and working with numbers, and having studied economics at school she realized it was a subject that she really loved. This led her to take on a bachelor's degree in economics and business at University College London, and she has never looked back. Ashmi had initially thought that investment banking would be the career path she would pursue, given that she had a strong background in mathematics. After getting some exposure to the field through her university, she quickly realized it wasn't quite right for her and began exploring more about consulting and corporate finance.

When entering the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition, Ashmi thought she would use the opportunity to test herself, and see if it would be something she would like. "I always base my decision on if I will enjoy something or not, and I was pleasantly surprised by my experience," she remarked. "I thought corporate finance was only about numbers and money, but I quickly realized

that actually it's about coming up with strategies and building relationships with your clients. You have to use quantitative information to give qualitative advice which helps to build trust."

Ashmi is looking forward to delving into the consulting field further by exploring internship opportunities at EY, having had a very positive experience in the competition. She hopes to be able to step outside of her comfort zone and gain as much work experience as she can. "I have always enjoyed coming up with strategies and conducting an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each solution," she said. "In the competition, it was great to see how different theories come into practice, and at the same time I could work with numbers. This experience, combined with learning more about EY, has shown me that working in consulting is the future for me. I look forward to exploring different parts of EY TAS, to help me decide which area of transactions I'd like to specialize in."



Catlin (Katie) Brand

Country:

Australia

University:

Monash University

Degree:

Bachelor of Law & Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)

Selected by the Australian Government to take part in the New Colombo Plan, a prestigious initiative aimed to increase undergraduates' knowledge of the Indo-Pacific, Katie Brand lived in Hong Kong for a year. Studying for a double degree in law and commerce, she decided to add a diploma in Mandarin under her belt, because she believes it's important to be prepared to work in a globalized world.

Katie not only studied in Hong Kong, but also interned for two law firms, all the while increasing her proficiency in Mandarin. "This experience was very useful in helping me understand different cultural nuances, and I feel I have a better understanding of how best to do business in the east and west," she said.

Although Katie initially chose to study law, she realized that she wanted to focus on aspects of commerce in the long-term instead. Having completed a few internships with multiple investment banks, and dabbled in politics when working abroad in the US senate, she now has a particular focus on corporate finance. "I believe knowledge of law is important to have, as it enables you to think critically and focus on how to articulate yourself."

Katie decided to apply to the competition after some encouragement from a friend, who was also an EY

professional. Talking about her experience Katie commented: "At first I was hesitant to apply because I thought 'what are the chances?', but my biggest driver for applying was to show other women that if I can do it, they can do it too. It's much less scary than you anticipate, but it's so much more than just finance. By the end of it, I realized how much I knew, and how much I enjoyed presenting."

One of her biggest takeaways was understanding more about what it meant to work in TAS. "My interests lie in mergers and acquisitions, but having gained more knowledge about transactions, I have realized that there is so much more diversity and breadth in TAS, and I trust that I would be able to satisfy my curiosity in different areas while pursuing an international career," she added. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises for Katie were the case study questions. "They were practical in real life and contemporary business problems. It really put my mind to work."

As Oceania's 2019 *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year*, Katie is looking forward to undertaking her prize – a local internship within EY TAS. She is confident that she will not only bring her unique skills and experiences, but also bring diversity of thought and perspectives, to a transaction.



Coline Toulouse-Angeletti

Country:

France

University:

Université Paris Dauphine

Degree:

Bachelor of Business Administration

Gaining insight into corporate finance, as part of a global organization, has been invaluable for Coline Toulouse-Angeletti. Having studied Mandarin for over 10 years, and with a particular passion for China and Asia, Coline envisions her future working internationally in M&A, for either financial services or a Big 4 organization.

"I like that you're always working alongside actual companies and that you can see the results of your analysis, sometimes even from a global perspective. It's about technique, understanding different markets and the advisory dimension."

Having taken part in the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition this year, she also sees the benefits of being able to practice her language skills, while collaborating with people all over the world.

"Even though it was a competition, it didn't feel like it. Everyone was very agreeable, and it showed me how important it is to collaborate as a team, as we are able to create the best outcomes if we work together. Not only does this bring the best out of each other, but we also benefit from getting different points of view," she remarked.

It's not only the opportunity to work across different cultures that appeals to Coline. Through her participation in the event, she was able to put her previous work experience in valuations into practice, which was highly advantageous. "The case study was very well designed – not only was it global, but it also covered many parts of M&A deals, which enabled me to apply and use what I have learnt through previous internships. But what I also really valued was being able to collaborate with the EY coaches as part of the assessment, as their guidance was essential on how to pick out information," she said.

While Coline plans to pursue an international career in M&A, she is also focused on balancing other interests too, such as traveling, ballet and Savate (French boxing).

"I put myself under a lot of pressure in a positive way, as I want the best for myself. I want to think 'I couldn't have done more,' as I never want to have regrets. I always aim to make the best out of each experience. I want to be successful in both my personal and professional life, so it is about finding the right balance."



Elizabeth Castillo Guadarrama

Country:

Mexico

University:

Tecnológico de Monterrey

Degree:

Bachelor of Financial Management

Getting firsthand experience and exposure to different learning opportunities is very important to Elizabeth Castillo Guadarrama. Having undertaken her bachelor's degree in Financial Management, Elizabeth is now looking to the future with plans to complete an MBA and become a chartered financial analyst (CFA). It is this desire to gain experience that has also led Elizabeth to undertake numerous opportunities at renowned organizations, and to expand her academic accolades, including a Diploma in Investment Analysis. Her passion for finance is also clearly prevalent in one of her main hobbies: investing in forex, from which she has already seen great returns on some of her investments.

Keen to explore what the world of corporate finance could offer, Elizabeth decided to apply for *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year*. "Corporate finance is not just about money, but it's about what is behind it," she said. "For example, it can provide new jobs, resources

for companies to create an environmental impact or open new markets and opportunities. It's also a great tool that can make a great impact in business, such as future employees, and bring prosperity to local and international communities."

"I am very glad I got the opportunity to participate in this competition, because a whole new career path has opened for me. I was surprised to learn the amount of exposure that working in TAS can give you. I can work closely with teams across the world to create solutions to help businesses to grow, while providing expertise and innovative thinking," she added.

Elizabeth is also strongly motivated by wanting to be a role model. "I want other young women like me to know there are opportunities in finance, and you can make an impact just by raising your hand. Anything is possible."



Ghalya AlAli

Country:

United Arab Emirates

University:

Zayed University

Degree:

Bachelor of Business, Major in Finance

Ghalya AlAli has always had a keen interest in finance, and having studied accounting in school, she decided to undertake a bachelor's degree in business, majoring in finance. She is also focused on becoming a chartered financial analyst, studying for her level 1 examinations. Having been nominated by her university to apply for the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition, Ghalya decided she would take the opportunity to learn more about EY TAS to understand what went on in the world of transactions. "I knew corporate finance was a very interesting field as a lot of problem solving skills are usually involved, as you have to look at business situations from many perspectives, so I was very keen to understand how a transaction is made," she stated.

Through her experience in the competition, Ghalya learned more about different areas of transactions, and has taken interest in Strategy and Buy and Integrate, which she looks forward to exploring further when she joins EY as an intern. What stood out to Ghalya were the notable efforts EY is making to focus on bringing women into the firm. "I really liked that EY has the door wide open to women, taking an important step closer to

achieving gender equality. This definitely grabbed my attention, because I want to work for an organization where I can work flexibly when I need to, as it's really important to me that I can balance my personal and professional lives and contribute equally to both as much as possible," she said.

As part of the competition, Ghalya also took part in a fun elevator pitch challenge, exploring how she would want to build a better working world, and create a legacy.

"Building a better working world is very important, in my opinion, because it will lead eventually to a better world. I want to build a better working world by focusing on the human power I have. I believe that by strengthening the communication and improving trust between people, a better working world can be created. I aspire to create a legacy by leaving footprints behind, by giving back to my country as much as I can and then pass it on to the next generation. I will create my legacy through relationships and conversations, I hope, as a leader, to inspire the people around me and leave in them something that will last."



Hatoun AlOtaibi

Country:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

University:

King Saud University

Degree:

Bachelor of Finance

Hatoun AlOtaibi views challenges and problems as a series of intricate puzzles that need solving, and once she solves a puzzle, it's quickly onto the next for her. For as far back as Hatoun can recall, she has always relished the opportunity to find solutions, with nothing being too big or small for her to take on. Thanks to her savvy thinking, Hatoun has been able to navigate her family through some tricky challenges, and she has even been able to act in a financial advisor capacity, for example by helping her sister successfully invest money in businesses and real estate. It's led to Hatoun undertaking a bachelor's degree in Finance, and she has plans take on a master's degree in the future. "I'm an eager person, ready to pursue any available opportunity that comes my way. I feel like it's just there waiting for me to take it," she said.

After receiving the details for the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition from a friend, Hatoun decided to apply and see where the opportunity would take her. "For so many years, I have seen a gap between strategies and theories, and real-world business decisions. Being part of this event, and having learnt more about how EY supports clients, I understand that there are so

many things to take into consideration and data points that need to be analyzed to help come up with the right solution. I can see that working in Transactions is somewhat like puzzles that need to be solved."

For Hatoun, it's Operational Transaction Services (OTS) that has particularly caught her interest as she feels that this would help bring her closer to understanding how companies operate at a more intricate level. It's an area she's looking forward to delving into in the future, as she can apply different ways of thinking. However, she is also focused upon how she can help to build a better working world, and for Hatoun it's clear that this should involve engaging the young by encouraging them to learn, and by sharing insights to help them realize their full potential.

"I want to give back to the community, and help the younger generation to find their path by sharing advice, inspiring them through my journey, and others like me. I believe the positive impact would extend not only to businesses and the environment, but also to the economy as recent econometric studies show," she commented.



Ishika Mehrotra

Country:

Singapore

University:

Singapore Management University

Degree:

Bachelor of Business Management, Major in Quantitative Finance

Ishika Mehrotra has always loved working with numbers and coming up with solutions to problems. It's led her to pursue her bachelor's of Business Management and major in Quantitative Finance at Singapore Management University.

At the same time, her keen interest in technology and digital has led her to recognize the power of automation not only in financial services, but also in improving efficiencies of how companies run, and their impact in the competitive commercial world. She likes to learn about start-ups and mergers, to see how businesses are evolving and coming up with innovative solutions.

Ishika's desire to understand what is involved in corporate finance, in addition to learning about the culture at EY, and meeting like-minded women in the field, led her to attend the 'Women in Transactions' networking event in Singapore. Here, she quickly realized that forming relationships, team collaboration, and bringing diverse perspectives is important to being successful.

"I always thought transactions focused more heavily on numbers, but building relationships and being trustworthy is also very important, as

you need to be able to convince clients to deliver solutions."

Having attended the networking event, Ishika applied for *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year*. Her overall experience there has led her to seriously consider a career in TAS. Reflecting on her experience at the competition, she commented: "I thought it would be very competitive, but I was surprised to see that everyone was very collaborative and helpful in coming up with solutions."

Although Ishika is considering post graduate studies, she is also keen to gain more experience in the working world and is interning to broaden her knowledge and experience.

"I have a thirst to learn, to stretch myself and grow, which is why I take every opportunity I can to push myself every step of the way, so that I can be satisfied with myself. Whatever hard work I put in today will never go to waste; picking yourself up is important, and it's what has led me to where I am today."



Johanna Schmucker

Country:

Germany

University:

The University of Paderborn

Degree:

Bachelor of International Business Studies, Major in Finance

Motivated by using logic to solve complicated tasks, Johanna Schmucker's keen interest in finance has helped her thrive as she undertakes complex challenges – she feels a sense of pride when cracking a code! Her decision to do a bachelor's degree in International Business Studies and Major in Finance was based on the desire to study something that was different from her peers. She also sought to add in the elements she enjoyed, such as finance, learning Spanish, and a degree that would provide her with global context, in keeping with her belief that learning about the world and other cultures is very important.

While Johanna is considering a number of options for postgraduate studies, she is currently participating in some internships to boost her work experience. Johanna has gained some familiarity with financial risk and regulation and is firmly focused on developing a career in M&A, as this is where her interests lie. She also has a network of people around her who work in transactions, who have given her insight into opportunities that could be available to her.

"I applied previously for the competition and although I wasn't successful, I watched the videos

from last year's competition and it looked so interesting, that I decided to reapply. I didn't expect to win; it came as a big surprise, but I am really happy and proud to represent Germany this year," she said.

For Johanna, it has been a valuable experience, as she was able to learn more about TAS. "Although I already knew a lot about transactions, through this experience with EY, I was learned how TAS is structured, and the roles and responsibilities of the teams. This was important for me, as it confirmed my desire to build my career in transactions," she said.

Johanna places a lot of importance on being able to make an impact: "It makes me very happy to help others by providing a good service, it helps to make sense of what I do," she stated. "What interests me most about TAS is that it is very fast paced; you can be getting information from a client one day, to preparing a pitch the next day and sometimes this can mean you also have to work internationally. Although each transaction is different, they can be very diverse and involve working with different teams, so it is very important to always give your best, as you cannot succeed in a team by doing any less."



Kennedy Urban

Country:

United States of America

University:

Cornell University

Degree:

Bachelor of Applied Economics and Management with a concentration in Finance, Minor in Real Estate

Having started out studying economics at Cornell, Kennedy Urban quickly switched to a business major, as she had always been interested in understanding how markets relate and react to events in the US and across the world. It is through her degree that she began to develop a deeper interest in finance, and she has since been exploring opportunities to further develop her knowledge while also establishing a professional network.

Getting involved in the *EY Corporate Woman of the Year* competition provided Kennedy with an opportunity to discover more about the world of corporate finance, and to see if it could be a viable career path for her. Encouraged by a mentor to enter, Kennedy decided to take the plunge by treating this as an important learning opportunity. "Real world experience is very important when pursuing a higher education," she remarked.

Kennedy found she could apply some knowledge from her degree, while sharpening her skills at the same time. "It was my first time participating in a case study competition, but luckily I had taken a case study class last semester which really helped me." However, it was learning about the world of transactions that truly confirmed where

her interests lay. "Although I follow news about the business world and read about mergers and acquisitions, I have always been curious to learn more about how companies negotiate, and how deals are brokered. Through the competition, I got to explore that and learned about things such as how EY helps businesses to restructure or divest. It confirmed for me that I want to work in the consulting world."

Diversity and inclusion is another area that Kennedy feels particularly passionate about. Through her role as Senior Vice President at the Cornell Society for Women in Business, she feels she can inspire, motivate and help other young women navigate through the working world. "It is great to see that EY really cares about diversity. I would consider working for EY in the future as this also ties in with my purpose, which is to give back by making a difference to the lives of others. In the future, I want to become a mentor for young women. Having an advocate for your career, someone who can speak on your behalf and be there for you is so important. I am looking forward to helping other young women find their way, while fostering diversity and inclusion within an organization."



Olamide Duyile

Country:

United Kingdom

University:

London School of Economics

Degree:

Bachelor of Economic History

Making an impact by doing meaningful work is extremely important to Olamide Duyile. She gives back to her community by helping underprivileged youths from deprived areas in London to navigate a career path in banking and finance in a variety of different ways. One of these is through being a founder of #MadeInHackney and sharing her stories to inspire others. Olamide is often invited to speak at school assemblies and other events, where she talks about the doors that opened for her after she received the highest GCSE grades in the history of her school. These included a scholarship to a private school, and numerous opportunities to take summer classes at world renowned institutions such as Harvard and Yale, to name but a few. At her university, Olamide is also involved in the program 'Pathways to Banking and Finance,' which helps young students who are interested in these subject areas to access higher education.

Commenting on her decision to apply for the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition, Olamide said that she felt it was a tremendous opportunity to experience EY through a different, slightly non-traditional route. "I've always been interested in corporate finance. I've undertaken internships in this area before, but it

was only through this experience at EY that I've learnt what it actually means to work in corporate finance," she noted.

Her assumptions about the range of work corporate finance covers was also challenged through her participation. "I thought everyone who works in corporate finance does the same thing, but I couldn't have been more wrong. There are so many parts to it, such as due diligence and mergers and acquisitions," she said. "You always hear about mergers and acquisitions in the news, but you never understand the details behind it or what is really going on. Restructuring is also an area that is very current. For example, if you look at retail businesses in the UK, I think it's so interesting to see the effects of digital disruption and how many companies are having to work with organizations such as EY to look at how to restructure and change the way they operate to compete with online giants who have embraced technology and the future."

In pursuing a career in corporate finance, Olamide believes she can be impactful in several ways – not only by helping clients through strategy and advice, but also the wider ripple effects this can have for employees and communities alike.



Tanushka Lahiri

Country:

India

University:

Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi

Degree:

Bachelor of Economics

Tanushka Lahiri is currently studying for her bachelor's of Economics at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi. Economics, she feels, helps her to understand and make sense of the world around her, while being able to indulge in logical creativity. Outside of her studies, Tanushka enjoys debating and is currently Vice President of the Model United Nations Society at her college. In this role, she can keep up to date with current international affairs while helping to solve big challenges. "Sometimes people assume that debating doesn't have substance, but, I have found that for me it is the best way to learn and understand how I feel about the world," Tanushka said.

Being able to apply theory and come up with solutions to real time problems is also what sparked her interest in the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition.

"During the competition, I was given the opportunity to suggest strategies for global expansion, while focusing on concerns such as geopolitics and financial implications, which was eye opening. I learnt that working as part

of a team is critical to being able to solve such problems, especially as they can have a deep impact on people's lives. You have to think of many different scenarios, and different ways, instead of being black and white."

It was also the opportunity to get involved in helping to raise the profile of women that lured Tanushka to apply for the competition. "I thoroughly enjoyed participating, not only did I learn so much about corporate finance but I was able to find out more about how EY supports women in business, and it was very inspiring to learn that women are not limited to particular types of roles," she said. "So much data is now available that backs up the benefits of having a diverse workforce, and statistics also show companies can be more profitable by including women on their board. India has been slow to embrace the value of gender diversity and equality, but I am very keen to be a role model and set an example by showing others that women can work and be successful in traditionally male dominated fields."



Tiril Flores Stole

Country:

Norway

University:

Norwegian School of Economics

Degree:

Bachelor of Economics and Business Administration

For Tiril Stole, an interest in finance began very early on in her life, when she was given stocks as a baptism gift. Over the years, she has learnt how to invest, sell and trade, and often spends her free time researching companies, analyzing their performance and making investment decisions accordingly. Tiril's family have also played a big role in her penchant for finance; with their strong background and interest in the area, it is often a topic of conversation over the dinner table.

Having lived in the US as a child, and studied in New York, Tiril likes to stay connected globally through politics, as she likes to understand the economic impact on markets based on decisions made by governments. Combined with managing investments on behalf of students, through her university's investments group, she hopes to set an example to other women who have an interest in this field – especially those who may hold themselves back in fear of facing tough career challenges in the future, in an area that has been traditionally male dominated.

Although Tiril had never taken a class on corporate finance, and despite her impression of the field as something resembling *The Wolf of Wall*

Street, it was her desire to challenge herself that led to her application for the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition.

"When I saw the ad on Instagram that read 'Are you a woman and interested in finance?', I just thought 'Yes' and I applied. I never expected that I would be accepted, but I thought what's the worst case scenario? I would just contribute to demand. Either way, if I don't try I'll never know if I could have made it."

Reflecting upon her experience in the competition, Tiril says she has been very surprised at how much she enjoyed this. "I usually like to crack on with spreadsheets in peace and quiet, but I also like presenting to and meeting new people. I can see that working at EY, I would be able to combine both working individually and as a team, while helping clients to reach their goals. I'm really happy that I can do that."

"I know I'll face challenges in a career in corporate finance, but I would never work in anything boring. When you put yourself outside your comfort zone, you'll achieve things. The feeling afterwards is great and it's the only way to learn."



Valeria Pugacheva

Country:

Russia

University:

Belarusian State University

Degree:

Bachelor of Economics, Major in Corporate Finance

Valeria Pugacheva believes that studying for her bachelor's of Economics will provide her with a good basis from which to develop her career. While she has a laser-sharp focus on the effects of digitalization and technology, Valeria can also see the impact that this will have on corporate finance, and how important it is that businesses such as EY continue to recognize and embrace the benefits of disruption. "It is also important for employees to catch up with the advances that technology will bring, to stay ahead of the curve and provide clients with dynamic solutions," Valeria notes.

"I believe corporate finance is the future, as no company can operate without this and it will never become outdated. Areas such as M&A, integration and company strategy will become even more important because of globalization. Blockchain technology can only enhance corporate finance, for example by helping us to integrate technology to evaluate data, providing companies with a range of solutions," she commented.

Outside of her studies, Valeria has maintained her firm interest in corporate finance by participating in case competition forums in Russia. Teams are typically given two weeks to solve real-life case

studies and present their solutions back to a jury. Not only has Valeria gained first-hand experience in evaluating financial data and analyzing growth trajectories, but some of the solutions provided by her team have also been implemented by global businesses. "My involvement in these championships has provided me with real world experience, an opportunity to build relationships with peers and learn the importance of communication – with the bonus of being able to implement theoretical knowledge," she said.

For Valeria, participating in the *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year* competition allowed her to fully understand and explore what a career in EY TAS would entail for her: "I'm definitely interested in a career in corporate finance, though for me, EY is the place to join. EY provides the ability to change where you work, gain exposure to different work cultures, communicate with many different people and visit different places, all while gaining new experiences and skills. It is important to me to choose an employer where I can develop and grow. I'm really looking forward to my internship with EY."



Vera Veltman

Country:

Netherlands

University:

Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Degree:

Bachelor of Economics

Having completed a double honors bachelor's degree in Building Engineering, Vera Veltman decided to change track, as she realized she could apply her passion for creativity and problem solving with a bachelor's degree in Economics. While her broad knowledge of economics (and hobbies, such as investing in whiskey) also had some influence over her decision to alter directions, Vera is a firm believer in experiencing things first.

"Every decision I make, I ask myself 'Will I enjoy this?' If it's about looking good on paper, then that is the wrong decision. I always try to choose something that fits for me, as it is truly important to get experience and understanding of what you want to do. From each experience, you can get something valuable out of it."

Vera's open-mindedness and desire to experience something new led her to put herself forward for *EY Corporate Finance Woman of the Year*. Although it was her first time coming into contact with the world of corporate finance, the combination of analyzing data and being able to build relationships left a lasting positive impression.

"I knew a bit about EY, but I wasn't aware of the depth of TAS. I found it much more diverse than I first thought, such as the wide variety of transactions that are handled. I really enjoyed the variety to the case study, and the different ways of analyzing data – it was very attractive to me."

For Vera, it was also important for her to be able to see if she could see herself working at EY.

"During the event, I pushed aside the idea of this being a competition, as I wanted to see for myself how I could fit in. The group was very diverse and had a lot to bring to the discussions, and all in all, it was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. I can definitely see myself here in the future. I am very much looking forward to the global competition, where I will have the opportunity to meet others, learn more about their views, culture, and how they work."

Contemplating on her future, Vera is considering further studies and living abroad as part of her options. "Goals are important, but if you choose one main point where you want to be, you can also close yourself off to other options. It's important to stay open and see where the road takes you as the learning and opportunities that come are invaluable."



Yuki Nakamura

Country:

Japan

University:

Yale-NUS College

Degree:

Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Having a career that allows Yuki Nakamura to make a meaningful contribution to society is of utmost importance to her. By aligning her career with her values and passion, Yuki believes that this will allow her to balance self-care with self-growth and self-development. During her time at Yale-NUS College, Yuki has been able to take advantage of numerous opportunities to travel. This includes undertaking semesters abroad at some of the top institutions in the world, such as Berkeley and Harvard, which allowed her to broaden her perspectives while cementing her desire to make a positive contribution to society.

Reflecting on her experience in the competition, Yuki commented: "The thing that stood out to me the most about EY is the slogan 'building a better working world.' This is because the purpose suggests a shift to a more human-centered approach. We come together when we collaborate. That's exactly what I could do through this competition: through collaboration with the other participants and by listening to diverse perspectives, our own assumptions were challenged which meant we were able to put the best ideas forward."

Yuki felt that she was also able to add value to case study discussions by sharing her viewpoints on the importance of considering economic and social values through M&A while helping firms to optimize their capital. Also, given her interest in philosophy, she was particularly able to bring a touch of ethics, which she felt helped to provide a holistic and inclusive understanding. "It was inspiring to see how through collaboration we can take on our part in providing the best advice to clients, which in turn impacts their employees and the world around them," she said.

"This experience has shown me that I want to work for a company like EY, where I can work in different locations and communicate with people across the world in a diverse and international setting while being able to focus on – and impact – social development. Through corporate finance, I can see that I can help organizations to optimize their capital, advise them on what they could do and how social and economic values could be increased, and to provide a way to reach a more macro form of growth."

About EY

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EYG no. 000683-19Gbl
EY-000086573.indd (UK) 02/19.
Artwork by Creative Services Group London.

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