

“There are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.”



**M**oney makes the world go round ... Not so much of a cliché, is it? The banking and financial services sector is all about money; that is no secret. This fact is reflected in the competitive salaries that graduates can expect upon entering the arena. In the current marketplace, graduates can look forward to premium salaries, great perks and high-flying careers. However, if working in the industry can be very rewarding, it also has its setbacks.

Indeed, financial markets are a notoriously volatile environment in which to pursue a career. You need only refer to recruitment literature from any well-known investment bank to read such phrases as “This career is not for the faint at heart...” Whether or not this is in fact true, it would certainly be a difficult task to find a time when the opportunities in the field have been brighter than they are today. Does this mean that it will be easier for today's financier wannabes to get a job? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

That said, there is a tremendous demand for high-calibre graduates, and no doubt about it, a major in Banking and/or Finance is a great way to enter the business world and climb your way to the top of that corporate ladder. However, alluring salary prospects should not be what motivates your entering the field. For those of you who like figures and charts or who have always cherished the idea of one day juggling seven-figure capital investments, and to those who have always imagined themselves becoming a financial tycoon, allow me to say one thing: Go for it. Dive into that jungle that is the banking and financial world. But only do so if you are willing and prepared to sacrifice your free time and if you have nerves of steel. If you can't cope with complicated figures before breakfast forget about it!

As many will confirm, those who entered this particular field thinking it would provide them with a safe diploma soon realized that they did not have the stamina to endure the stress inherent in this fast-paced environment. Or perhaps they simply did not understand the true scope of the industry. Contrary to the common belief that every professional in the field is greedy scum, be aware that finance and banking professionals must abide by strict ethical standards, and that integrity, objectivity and confidentiality are the three key traits necessary for the job. While it may be true that sharks do exist in this field (in fact they exist everywhere), ruthlessness never got anybody anywhere. Those who rise too quickly are bound to fall even faster...

Play your cards right and you will be rewarded. Big time!

On a more personal note, we here at AcademiX are very proud to announce the magazine's first anniversary. All of us wish to thank our dear readers for their faith in us and for all the encouraging and congratulating mail we have received (please send us more, we love it!). To celebrate this occasion, we invite you all to visit our website at [www.academixme.com](http://www.academixme.com)

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