

SAJJAAD AHMED

“The greatest obstacle to discovering the truth is being convinced that you already know it”

- Ashleigh Brilliant

Sajjaad Ahmed graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BBusSci Actuarial Science and joined the Prescient Graduate Program in 2020. His programme started in Prescient Analytics, where he is responsible for monitoring and reporting on regulatory compliance and liquidity risk for various funds in the financial services industry. Beyond his passion for finance, he is a tinkerer and enjoys working on various DIY projects in his spare time. These range from basic household maintenance to learning how to do automotive repairs and bodywork.

What excites you the most about investment/financial markets?

Market uncertainty and the vast amounts of underlying data that can be analysed excites me. This coupled with a keen interest in the derivatives market -securities can be tailormade to almost any investment strategy.

Why do you believe Prescient's Graduate Program can help you achieve your current career goals?

My current goal is to learn and absorb as much as possible about financial markets and the encompassing industry. Prescient's programme offers rotation between the different business units. This offers me the opportunity to gain exposure to various sectors of the industry, access to mentors within the teams who provide valuable guidance and learnings.

What is the best bit of advice that you were given and that you believe would be valuable to finance/investment students?

My practical advice would be to get some exposure to VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) coding before transitioning from a student to the workplace. As part of an honors research project, I learned how to code in VBA based on the advice from my supervisor, who works in financial services. I found this exceptionally beneficial when I started my career as I use Excel / VBA extensively in my day-to-day duties.