NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026

Summary Document

Simone Ricci
PhD Candidate in Finance
Swiss Finance Institute (SFI), Lugano

Contact Information

Email	simone.ricci@usi.ch
Mailing Address	Via Buffi 13, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland
Phone	+393311558162

Academic Information

PhD Program	Finance
Institution	Swiss Finance Institute (SFI), USI Lugano
Year Entered PhD	2024
Expected Completion	2029
Primary Research Fields	Entrepreneurial Finance, Venture Capital, Private Equity

Faculty Recommender

Name	Prof. Laurent Frésard
Email	laurent.fresard@usi.ch
Institution	Swiss Finance Institute, USI Lugano

SIMONE RICCI

simone.ricci@usi.ch ⋄ +39 3311558162

EDUCATION

Swiss Finance Institute, Lugano *September 2024 - present*
Ph.D Candidate in Finance

Bocconi University, Milan *August 2020- July 2022*
M.Sc. Economics and Management

Main coursework (*Advanced Econ Free Track*): Advanced Macroeconomics, Advanced Microeconomics, Econometrics II (PhD course), Policy Analysis and Evaluation, Macroeconometrics (audited), Economics and Policy of Global Markets, Development Economics.

University of Bergamo, Bergamo *August 2017-July 2020*
Bachelors Degree in Economics (Summa Cum Laude)

Main coursework: Calculus, Advanced Calculus, Statistics, Advanced Statistics, Econometrics, Micro and Macroeconomics, Labour Economics, Behavioral Economics, Monetary Economics.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Zurich Sep 2023 - present
Predoctoral Fellow *Zurich, Switzerland*

Department of Economics
Working on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence projects in the fields of political economy and cultural economics, under the supervision of Professor Joachim Voth.

The University of Chicago Booth School of Business Aug 2022 - Aug 2023
Research Professional (Predoctoral) *Chicago, IL, United States*

Fama-Miller Center for Research in Finance
Working on International Finance, Macroeconomics with Professor Wenxin Du and Ralph Koijen; Venture Capital Investment flows to EMEs with Professor Emanuele Colonnelli.

European Central Bank (ECB) May 2022 - July 2022
Traineeship in International Finance *Frankfurt, Germany*

Directorate General International - International Policy Analysis Division
Working on Governing Council preparation as a trainee for the Finance Desk. Data management and analytical research assistantship to produce reports, notes and presentations to be brought forward to President Lagarde and the Executive Board to inform monetary policy of the European Union.

Bocconi University - IGIER January 2022 - March 2022
Research Assistant *Milan, Italy*

IGIER - Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research
Working on cleaning of raw data coming from administrative records of white list firms (not involved in organized crime).
Project involving criminal infiltration of Mafia in private firms.

Ifo Institute for Economic Research September 2021 - November 2021
Research Assistant (Intern) *Münich, Germany*

Center for Labor and Demographic Economics
Working on minimum wage projects and the effect on domestic abuse and violence.
Literature review for a RCT in India coordinated by Post-Doc Sofia Amaral.
Data collection, visualization and writing for a project on data leaks impact on credit card borrowing and debt repayment, coordinated by Post-Doc Sofia Amaral and Federal Reserve Board Economist André F. Silva.

Working project supervisors:
Sofia Amaral (ifo Institute & LMU, now World Bank), Prof. Helmut Rainer (ifo Institute & LMU), André F. Silva (Federal Reserve Board).

Kiel Institute for the World Economy June 2021 - August 2021
Research Assistant (Intern) *Kiel, Germany*

Department of International Finance and Macroeconomics
Researching on sovereign bonds haircuts, yield, determinants of haircuts. Tasks included coding through Stata to compute haircuts and data visualization through graphs.

Working project supervisors:
Josefin Meyer (Kiel Institute for World Economy), Prof. Christoph Trebesch (Kiel Institute for World Economy & University of Kiel, Prof. Carmen Reinhart (Harvard University)

University of Bergamo October 2020 - April 2021
Research Assistant *Bergamo, Italy*

Department of Economics
Researching in the fields of Microeconomics and Industrial Organization.
Working project supervisor:
Prof. Salvatore Piccolo (University of Bergamo)

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Computer Skills	Python (Advanced), Stata (Advanced), R (Intermediate), MatLab (Intermediate), LaTeX(Advanced), Office Package (Advanced) GitHub (Intermediate).
Languages	English (Full Proficiency), Italian (Native), French (Fluent), German (Intermediate), Portuguese (Basic), Spanish (Basic)

OTHER EXPERIENCES

Volunteering	Emergency Medical Technician for Volontari di Treviolo (ANPAS Lombardia).
Sports	Former Pro-Level Basketball Player for Bergamo Basket 2014.
Community work	Commissioner for Youth Policies, Municipality of Treviolo, Italy.
Exchange Programs	Senior Year of High School in Michigan, USA, at Potterville High School.

Simone Ricci
PhD Candidate in Finance
Swiss Finance Institute (SFI)
USI Lugano
Lugano, Switzerland
simone.ricci@usi.ch

February 4, 2026

Selection Committee
NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp

Dear Selection Committee,

I am Simone Ricci, a second-year PhD candidate in Finance at the Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) at USI Lugano, and I am writing to apply to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp. I already completed my mandatory coursework and I have officially entered the research stage of the program. My research agenda centers on entrepreneurial finance, private equity and venture capital, with a focus on how new technologies influence entrepreneurial outcomes through investment, governance decisions, and information production.

My primary research project studies the adoption of data and AI tools by venture capital firms and how this adoption affects the organizational structure of the VC industry. I examine changes in syndication choices, lead investor roles, and analyze the implications for information production, monitoring intensity, and access to follow-on funding, as well as competition in the investor space. This project speaks directly to core questions in entrepreneurial finance concerning screening, certification, and control.

In related work, I study venture capital syndication networks as endogenous organizational choices, focusing on the motives behind formation and dissolution of syndication ties and their consequences for financing terms and entrepreneurial outcomes. More specifically, I am interested in testing the strength of networks of syndicates, exploiting exogenous shocks to track and study the changing motives behind a syndication decision.

Recently, I have grown interested in studying the underlying causes of limited innovation and entrepreneurial activity in the European landscape, with particular focus on venture capital markets; in particular, I would like to explore how institutional design, financing constraints, and information environment can affect entry, scaling and technological innovation.

Methodologically, my work is empirical and places strong emphasis on identification, using large-scale private market datasets and quasi-experimental designs. I am particularly interested in this boot camp because of its focus on early-stage research and engagement with leading scholars in the field of entrepreneurship, which I view as an important experience to refine research questions and explore identification strategies.

Entrepreneurial finance and private markets are at the core of my dissertation agenda and long-term research interests, as I am committed to pursuing an academic career in finance. I would greatly value the opportunity to participate in this early-career boot camp and meet other young scholars open to fruitful discussions and valuable mutual exchanges.

Sincerely,
Simone Ricci

swiss:finance:institute

Università Della Svizzera Italiana
Faculty of Economics
Via G. Buffi 13
6904 Lugano
Switzerland

Laurent Frésard
Professor of Finance
Swiss Finance Institute Chair
laurent.fresard@usi.ch
Phone: +41 (0)58-666-4491
http://www.people.usi.ch/fresal/

February 11, 2026

Letter of support for Simone Ricci to the NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp 2026

Dear selection committee:

I am writing to strongly support Simone Ricci's application for the NBER Entrepreneurship Bootcamp. Simone works under my supervision. He is a very promising 2nd-year Ph.D. Student in Finance, working on entrepreneurial finance.

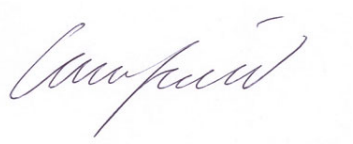
Simone is working on a promising research agenda and has made tremendous progress over the past year. He is currently working on different projects related to the impact of data and AI on the Venture Capital industry. One is specifically looking at whether the use of AI by VC funds affects the collaboration among funds for syndicated fundings, on the premise that AI should lower the cost of uncertainty and thus reduce the need to syndicate. This is what he finds so far empirically He did a pre-doc at the University of Chicago, and he is very creative. I am surprised by his research maturity given that he is only a second-year student. I think that his research has great potential and will likely be impactful.

I imagine that the demand for the program is large. I thus won't write a lengthy letter. My sense is simply that the marginal effect that the NBER Bootcamp could have on Simone's future achievements is potentially very large.

Thank you for considering her and for this great initiative.

Kind regards,

Laurent



Laurent Frésard