APPLICATION FOR THE NBER ENTREPENEURSHIP RESEARCH BOOT CAMP 2013

FILIPPO MEZZANOTTI

Ph.D. student Business Economics, Harvard University

Contact Information:

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Recommendation Letter writer: Prof. Josh Lerner, Harvard Business School

Prof. Lerner will provide the recommendation letter by e-mail.

Final Note:

I have already applied last year and in the response email Prof. Hellmann has said "(…)Should your interest in entrepreneurship research continue to develop in demonstrable ways, the admissions committee would like to encourage you to re-apply next year. We obviously cannot make any promises, but if you decide to re-apply, please make sure to mention this letter in your application.(…)"

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Office Contact Information

Wyss Hall 102, Harvard Business School
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Graduate Studies:

Ph.D., Business Economics, Harvard University, 2011 to present
Expected Completion Date: June 2016

M.Sc., Economics, Università Commerciale "Luigi Bocconi", summa cum laude, 2008-2010

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Economics, Università Commerciale "Luigi Bocconi", summa cum laude, 2005-2008

Visiting Student, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College, 2007

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2012	Research Assistant, Harvard Business School, Prof. Josh Lerner
2010-2011	Visiting Pre-Doctoral Scholar, Department of Finance, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Prof. Paola Sapienza
2009-2010	Research Assistant, IGIER, Università Commerciale "Luigi Bocconi". Prof. Vincenzo Galasso
2007	Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College. Prof. Annamaria Lusardi

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2012	Harvard University Summer Grant
2011 to present	Bonaldo Stringher Scholarship, Bank of Italy
2008-2010	Bocconi Graduate Merit Award

Graduate Coursework for Filippo Mezzanotti

Completed:

- Econ 2010a-Microeconomic Theory. Instructors: Jerry Green and Edward Glaeser
- Econ 2010c-Macroeconomic Theory. Instructors: David Laibson and Robert Barro
- Econ 2110- Introductory Probability and Statistics for Economists. Instructor: Rustam Ibragimov
- Econ 2010b-Microeconomic Theory. Instructors: Jerry Green and Oliver Hart
- Econ 2010d-Macroeconomic Theory. Instructors: Emmanuel Farhi and Kenneth Rogoff
- Econ 2120- Introduction to Applied Econometrics. Instructor: Gary Chamberlain
- Econ 2140- Econometric Methods. Instructor: Guido Imbens
- Econ 2723- Asset Pricing I. Instructor: Owen Lamont
- Econ 2060- Contract Theory. Instructor: Philippe Aghion
- MIT 14.385- Nonlinear Econometric Analysis. Instructor: Whitney Newey and Victor Chernozhukov
- Econ 2091-History of Economic Thought I. Instructor: Jerry Green

Current:

- Econ 2725-Corporate Finance. Instructor: David Scharfstein and Robin Greenwood
- Econ 2727-Empirical Methods in Corporate Finance. Instructor (main): Paul Gompers

Harvard University
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Registrar
Graduate School

Sat 23 Mar 2013

This is a CONFIDENTIAL student record.

Mezzanotti, Filippo
708-3984-9, GAS 02, Active

Business Economics

Subject: Business Economics

2011-2012	COURSE	2F	HALF	FULL	CRED	COMMENT
20111 44310	ECON 2010c		A-		0.50	
20111 72130	ECON 2110		A		0.50	
20111 86560	ECON 2010a		B+		0.50	
20111 88990	TIME-C				0.50	
20112 20410	ECON 2010d		A-		0.50	
20112 23520	ECON 2120		A		0.50	
20112 72100	ECON 2140		A		0.50	
20112 86590	ECON 2010b		B+		0.50	

2012-2013	COURSE	2F	HALF	FULL	CRED	COMMENT
20121 14040	ECON 2060		A		0.50	
20121 19579	XMIT 14.385		B		0.50	
20121 28470	ECON 2723		A		0.50	
20121 89713	ECON 2091		SAT		0.50	
20122 14270	ECON 2725		--		0.50	
20122 88990	TIME-C				0.50	
20122 88990	TIME-C				0.50	
20122 90550	ECON 2727		--		0.50	

To whom it may concern,

I would like to apply to the 2013 NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I am extremely interested in Entrepreneurship and see this is a unique opportunity to gain exposure in cutting edge research and meet some of the most active scholars in the field. I hope that through this essay I am able to convey my deep interest, experience and motivation to the admissions committee.

I am currently in my second year of the Ph.D. in Business Economics at Harvard University. I have successfully completed my first-year course work I and am now attending field classes, which are mainly focused on Finance and Econometrics. In this period, I am preparing my Oral exam, which I will take in June in three fields of my choice: Corporate Finance, Entrepreneurship and Econometrics. I believe that this summer is the most optimal time in my academic career to attend the Boot Camp; I will be transitioning from the course-work centered phase of the Ph.D. to fully devoting my time to research next year. Moreover, I am confident that I will be able to contribute to the Boot Camp in my own way, by participating to class debate and engaging in discussions with my peers and professors.

In terms of my research interests, I am particularly intrigued by the connections among Entrepreneurship, Corporate Finance and Innovation. For instance, recently I have started working on a project trying to understand the connection between financial flexibility and innovation. I believe that the recent financial crisis provides us with a good environment from which to construct a convincing empirical test of the cost of financial constraint on quality and quantity of innovation. In addition, in the last year I have been working with Professors Josh Lerner and Shai Bernstein on a project that aims to shed light on how private equity funds can create value in a context with financial constraints. In general, I hope that my future research will advance our understanding of how corporate financial decisions, governance policies and financial development affect the production of innovation, both in new entrepreneurial ventures and established businesses.

There are two main reasons why I think that attending the Boot Camp would be a terrific experience for me. First, I think it would be a unique chance to gain deeper exposure to the most recent research in this field. As I mentioned above, I have chosen Entrepreneurship as one of my three fields for my Oral examination, which I am working on under the excellent supervision of Josh Lerner. However, given that the field is constantly expanding, I think that there are many aspects of current research that I would like to study more closely at the Boot Camp if given the opportunity. Moreover, since no formal class on Entrepreneurship was offered this year at Harvard, I think that meeting and interacting with other fellow students who have similar interests and motivation to pursue excellent research in this area would be extremely beneficial. Second, I am convinced that the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp would provide an amazing environment in which to developing and cultivate my own research agenda. I would have the unique opportunity to discuss my interests and ideas with some of the most active scholars and faculty in the field.

In closing, I would like to report that I applied to the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp last year, without success. However, Prof. Hellmann in the rejection letter mentioned that the admissions committee encouraged me to re-apply in 2013 and that I should mention this communication when I applied again.

I believe that the endeavors one engages in during the summer of second-year should provide the right inputs to initiate a successful research career. For this reason I am convinced that the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp would be a terrific opportunity for me, thanks to the excellence of the faculty who will participate and the vibrant intellectual environment I would be exposed to. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Filippo Mezzanotti