

FIND *your* FUTURE

## Faisal Javaid

**Job title:** Senior Risk Manager | Man Group

**Graduation date:** 2005

**Degree:** Engineering with Business Finance



### **Tell us about your current role and organisation.**

I work for Man Group – an investment management firm with around \$100Bn under management. I work within Man FRM, which is the firm’s “fund of funds” business. We essentially help our clients (typically large pension funds) invest in hedge funds by providing a variety of advisory, risk management, and operational functions.

My role is as a Senior Risk Manager, within the Investment Risk team. I conduct investment risk due diligence on hedge funds (assessing their risk profile and processes), and provide risk management oversight for funds we’ve already invested in.

### **What motivated you to go into this sector?**

I started my career in financial services at an investment bank (Goldman Sachs), as the skill set of an engineer fits well with the skills required in many finance roles. However, after 8 years at a bank, I decided to move to the asset management industry for a change of work environment and to get closer to the investment side.

### **What do you think helped to set you APART from other candidates?**

- Technical skills (including having a STEM degree)
- Experience – length (12 years when I joined Man) and breadth (having covered a variety of asset classes, and both buy and sell sides of the industry)
- Communication skills – being able to make presentations, communicating clearly to senior investment professionals etc.

## **What does a normal work day look like for you?**

It is quite changeable.

If there's something eventful happening in financial markets – it may involve analysing the situation and assessing risk exposures and PnL impacts for our/client investments and letting the relevant stakeholders know.

I may be performing a due diligence on a hedge fund, so gathering information, meeting the manager, and then writing a report which would be presented to an Investment Committee and sent to the end client.

I may be preparing for a monthly risk committee meeting (where we discuss market events of the past month, changes in risk profiles etc), or regular board meetings for our clients where we review the funds they have invested in.

## **What are the best things about working in your role?**

- Being close to financial markets
- Interacting with clients and external hedge funds
- Performing pieces of analysis and presenting them
- Learning from, and working with, very intelligent and competent colleagues

## **What are the biggest challenges?**

The investment risk team is very small – just 2 of us. Therefore, workload can be a challenge during busy periods.

## **What advice would you pass on to a student interested in this type of work?**

- Make sure to do well in your degree. It is very competitive for graduate positions, and the first thing on a CV that would be considered is the degree – relevance (STEM preferred) and result/predicted result.
- Try to get some relevant experience by applying for internships.
- Try to speak to people in the industry (friends/family) and do some reading on all the various roles in financial services, and how a financial services firm works.
- Do not underestimate the importance of extra-curricular activities! Soft skills matter – so being able to demonstrate these on your CV is important. Also - the hiring manager needs to be able to work with you – so being able to show that you have some interests shows you as a bit more “human”.

- Check your CV and cover letter for errors. Check it again. Then get someone else to check it. You'd be surprised how many applications come through with silly mistakes on them. When an employer is trying to whittle down a large stack of CVs down to just a few to bring in for interview; don't give them an easy excuse to put your application straight in the bin!