

## From studying in Oxford to promoting entrepreneurship across Europe



**Konrad Huneke**  
University of Oxford

**M**y first impression of Oxford could be summarized with the phrase “I didn’t know that all the Harry Potter stuff was actually real”. Oxford is a very historic city and walking around it still feels surreal. The architecture, the traditions, the college dinners, the rowing – all of it is so unique and has been here for centuries. It is incredible to be part of this institution.

I arrived at Oxford four weeks before most students because my program included an introductory programme that enabled us to get to know the university and our classmates. The master’s in financial economics (MFE) is a very rigorous course that combines the best of both finance and economics. We look at the theoretical underpinnings of economic and financial models that practitioners use on a daily basis. The economics part is emphasised a little more, in that we are actually

taught microeconomics, macroeconomics and a fair amount of econometrics. Rather than being any sort of practical training intended to prepare you for your first job in finance, the master’s programme is more about learning how to think about economic interrelations and solving complex problems. Another perk of the programme is a lifetime membership in the Oxford Union, one of the world’s oldest debating societies, which often features speaker events by politicians and other prominent people.

After my studies, I would like to work as a venture capitalist to solve the problem of insufficient financing opportunities for Europe’s entrepreneurs to put their ideas into practice. I want to achieve this by providing early-stage financing and thereby encourage innovative technologies and business models. Ultimately, the goal is to build a European counterpart of Silicon Valley. I believe that a key objective toward reaching this goal will be to strengthen the economic links between Great Britain and Germany, since London and Berlin are Europe’s largest start-up hubs and thus serve as role models.

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