

UMass Boston Students Find UWIN Program Valuable

Maedot Kassa, Communications Correspondent | March 05, 2019



Mambo Stephanie says an internship through the Undergraduate Women's Investment Network (UWIN) has allowed her to gain a holistic understanding of the investment management industry.

Image by: Colleen Locke

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In an effort to expand female students' exposure to the investment management industry, UMass Boston has partnered with Boston-based investment firm Loomis, Sayles & Company to recruit student interns through the Undergraduate Women's Investment Network (UWIN).

The partnership program has recruited six UMass Boston students to intern for the 2018-2019 year, including finance students Mambo Stephanie and Iulia Popozoglo.

According to Stephanie, the internship has allowed her to gain a holistic understanding of the investment management industry. Originally from Cameroon in Central Africa, Stephanie has also been a UMass Boston Student Ambassador for the company by helping to recruit other women into the program. Part of the reason she became an ambassador is because she found UWIN inspiring.

“There is that feeling when you walk into a boardroom or team meetings and you have women among not just middle management but at top executive roles. It gives you a vision of achievement and ambition,” Stephanie said.

Stephanie will be graduating in May and will prepare for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) level exam after graduation.



Popozoglo, above, learned about the UWIN program at an information session that was held on campus.

“Shortly after, I realized that UWIN is an amazing opportunity for me to get into the investment management field,” Popozoglo said. “UWIN is not just an internship, it is a resource. It provides you with everything you will need to succeed in the future.”

Popozoglo explained that UMass Boston students who are aspiring to have a career in investment management should start as early as their freshman and sophomore years applying for internships and co-ops.

“I think we are going through an investment revolution where more and more women begin to actively and independently invest by demonstrating their confidence and ability to make executive decisions,” said Popozoglo. “It is important to empower strong and independent women.”

Popozoglo expects to graduate this May and will prepare to get her CFA license.

In 2015, Associate Director of Credit Research Shannon O’Mara founded the UWIN at Loomis, Sayles & Company with the goal of introducing more women into the investment management industry. Since then, the program has been recruiting female sophomores and juniors for internships at the company.

O’Mara said she was frustrated when she noticed only 18 percent of the applications received for junior-level credit research positions in 2015 were women. This was out of several hundred applicants.

"In speaking with students, many didn't know investment management existed, or they confused the industry with investment banking. We realized that we were missing out on smart, capable, qualified female candidates – and those same women weren't aware of potential career paths in investment management," O'Mara said. "We wanted to help women find their place in the investment management world."

O'Mara explained that businesses thrive when there are a diverse set of perspectives contributing to decisions that are being made and that talented people are the greatest asset. Since 2015, the number of female applications received at Loomis, Sayles & Company has increased from 18 percent to 23 percent.

Loomis, Sayles & Company visited campus on February 28 for UMass Boston's Networking Event. Rising sophomores and juniors who are interested in applying for internships should visit Beacon Careers Online.

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