



Student Speak

1. Shaan Arora

Step By Step School, NCR

After listening to all the professionals and the sessions, I realized that passion is key to success. If you're not passionate about your profession, you'll have a difficult time working for it. **These 4 days have shaped my career choice because I have more clarity on my area of interest. I understand what happens in the EMF fields of careers. I feel my understanding of my career choices is now much clearer,** if someone asks me what I'm going to in future and how I am going to do, I can give them a detailed answer about how I want to be an investment banker and what I am going to do to reach there. An important thing I learned the past 4 days is that money is just a short-term motivator, at the end of the day you should get into a field which you really like and are interested in.

2. Simran Robinson Donison

Bangalore International School, Bangalore

The iASPIRE workshop talked about EMF and the careers that can be taken up, allowing me to see that there's such a big relation between these 3 subjects. The speakers that had the time to come and talk to us, gave me a real insight into a few of the careers I may have been considering. **The iASPIRE workshop has not only taught me more about EMF but has also pushed me to consider more career options and reflect on everything that I've been taught, helping me to observe the world around me from an EMF point of view.** This was my first EMF workshop and definitely, won't be my last!

3. Adi Gupta

Oberoi International School

I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different online tools that can be used to increase efficiency and organisation skills, and ultimately leading to maximisation of productivity. For instance, google forms, which I understood to an extent, became a lot more familiar by the end of the sessions. My main takeaway was the ability to collect data into a google sheet which can then be downloaded into an excel format. This is excellent for collecting and analysing data. I plan on using this tool right away. Another upskilling activity was the resume building information session which was a first for me. I set up a LinkedIn page and was given some practise interview questions which at this age, I would have never considered a necessity.

Aside from the in-class time, extra reading material was sent across and one article was very relatable. Having seen my friends swoon over "Supreme" and "Hype," I failed to understand the reason for the popularity of these brands. Such brands' success is mind-

boggling. Instead of trying to maximise production, they actually limited their supply while the demand was increasing exponentially. At this point, instead of raising the prices, they kept it at an affordable rate. Instead of looking at the opportunity cost of the money they lost, they gained by creating a fan following, which led to more brand equity. Eventually, this got them a billion-dollar valuation. Thus, the extra reading material has given me a much broader understanding.

The direction that this workshop has given me will definitely enhance my ability not only choose a programme but also once into it, keenly explore possibilities for further education and career options.

4. Paarth Golyaan

Mayo College, Ajmer

I attended the Session 2 which was started by Mr. Deep Kalra, on a happy note this program ended with a lot of valuable and informative talk on different fields with a number of speakers, **I would like to give special thanks to Navni Ma'am, Sonia Ma'am, Mr. Swaroop and Mr. Ganguly for organising this wonderful program which gave a wide view on Economics Management and Finance.**

5. Vasu Goyal

Pathways World School, Aravali

Throughout the sessions, I found myself wondering that this one is the right fit for me, I am doing this for my undergraduate, I can take this as my career. This level of confusion was only enlarged by the profound experiences I got to hear from all the professionals and their journeys left me in awe. But, to know that some of them were in situations like I am in today, I got more assured about my future and was able to draw strong connections amongst the integration of Economics, Management, and Finance in much depth.

Economics for instance was not just about being able to decode the macroeconomics news and using it for our benefit in professional settings. It became a noble field of study that would allow me to make ground-breaking discoveries and developments in areas such as poverty, rural development and even use its knowledge in careers like development and consulting.

All the mentors helped me with their own experiences personally and as a reference point too and made me look at the importance of economists in our world, the importance of research and analytical minds that persist to solve a problem through dedicated work that might not even lead to results instantly.

My perspective regarding the field of Finance became much wider. Moreover, my belief that finance can change the world or its role in the world is more than just printing money for personal benefit also became more affirmative. **After these sessions, the effect of finance on policymaking made me more confident about the study in this area.**

6. Yadunandan Gupta

Mayo College, Ajmer

The sessions helped me think rationally and put forward arguments. One of the main

takeaways was that it's important to think creatively and stand out from the crowd in order to get my dream job or to achieve my goals in this business. As Mr. Deep Kalra spoke of resilience, I was really motivated to think of entrepreneurship as a career even though there is a very low success rate. He showed the true side of entrepreneurship, yet at the same time he encouraged me to be optimistic, which was very helpful.

The session with Mr. Nikhil Arora was interesting and the most informative. My views on marketing as a career have changed completely. I now believe that marketing is a great way to explore the EMF sector because it requires all the basic qualities such as teamwork, data handling, creativity, communication skills, etc. I learned about the different marketing components, particularly the IMC.

Session leaders showed me how to make full use of resources like google papers, notes, slides, calendar, and more. These tools can be used to regularly organize my work and schedule, which will always keep me ready. The sessions were long and insightful and helped me to reconsider my working standards.

I signed up on LinkedIn as I was inspired by Sonia Ma'am. I've found that LinkedIn is a fantastic place to communicate with professionals from all fields and get advice on career choices. I also found that reddit is a fantastic platform for formulating your ideas and getting constructive feedback while also seeking people with similar ideas.

My personal interests are vested in consultation and business development and I feel I will succeed as I am passionate about it. I used to believe that consulting is all about advising companies through presentations and worksheets but this session helped me understand that you actually have to work with the clients on a ground level. You have to understand the clients' perspective and develop the ability to solve problems from their point of view. The session leader gave me insights of what a day is like as a business consultant.

7. Shreyas Jain

Mayo College, Ajmer

Looking back, these four days have been more than just the average summer school experience, rather, they have opened various new horizons for me whilst also giving me a wider understanding of my academic subjects and provided an excellent learning environment.

One important thing that I've learnt in all the sessions is that reading is the key to success. All session leaders laid stress on reading journals, articles, annual reports and finance related blogs as these will help us have a better insight in the field of our interest. I also learnt how to use technology to make my work easier, how to schedule meetings as a business relies on several aspects of technology for communication.

One of the most important things I took back from the workshop was the importance of will power and to never give up. Only when I believe in myself and I put my mind to something, can I be successful and achieve the goals I set for myself.

8. AJK

I feel like I have expanded my skills by learning skills such as calculating percentages and averages and furthermore actions in excel and am better equipped in considering my goals

given that this workshop has literally changed my potential outlook on my future career (changing from banking to consultancy).

The panel discussion on 'Trends of Industries' also helped me grow an interest in analysing market trends and try predicting the effects of COVID-19.

It has helped me understand the basics of how to pursue a career in EMF and has helped me understand its role in life and how it can change any institutional structure whether it be a company, the economy or the world.

9. Dhanush Katamareddy

Bangalore International School, Bangalore

The workshop came at a very ideal time for me, as I knew that economics, business and finance were the subjects that interested me, but did not have any clue about what to take up in college and as a career.

Economics was the first subject that we explored, and Alvin Roth's kidney matching algorithm caught my eye, purely because of the simplicity yet effectiveness of the idea that has saved multiple lives. This encouraged me to explore more around Nobel Prize winning studies and I had interestingly found information on priming.

The Management session directly addressed a major misconception that I had about studying management. I wanted to take up management as a career but hadn't considered studying it at an undergraduate level at least. In terms of identifying potential careers this was the most fruitful session in my mind as I had identified several options like business analytics and management consultancy and many more.

Being a math inclined student, a few of my teachers had advised me to consider becoming an Actuary. Despite hearing this word many times, I did not know what an Actuary is. The session developed an interest in me for this field as the preconception was that "actuaries are nerds" and this was now cleared. Accounting on the other hand was a subject that I was quite familiar with and was always inclined towards.

Resume building was something that I recently started, and it was very helpful to know how to go about it. On the other hand, I had never used LinkedIn and the session inspired me to explore it. Interviews are something that most people my age will have to take, and the biggest take away here was to do the simple things right.

EMF are subjects that are majorly impacting the world and the iASPIRE workshop has inspired me to contribute to this change.

10. Pavit Maheshwari

Mayo College, Ajmer

I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that we'd heard a lot of words being thrown around before attending the program. Words like "holistic", "interdisciplinary" and "consultancy", to name a few. I think every college webinar I attended, every pamphlet I read, had these words in it. Words that supposedly made said colleges unique. But for some reason it made all of them the same. It was only after the workshop that I truly understood what they meant, and it turned out to be extremely simplistic, to my surprise.

Additionally, **I was also introduced to career paths I hadn't heard of/didn't know much about before. For example, I had always heard of a lot of "consultants" but I had no clue about what they did.** But I think Ms. Pallavi did a great job of stating what exactly you're exposed to when you become a consultant, and I found that of great interest to me.

Then came Prof. James Abdey, with a career path I had never heard of before. But after the session, I very much see myself going into Data Sciences in the future, because the art of correlation is actually extremely interesting, and I found that specific career path very appealing.

In conclusion, not only did I acquire more information regarding the field I wanted to pursue. I was also introduced to new fields which I will no doubt consider pursuing.

11. Mohamed Saad

Legacy School

To be honest, in my childhood days I had so many crazy career choices in mind. One day it would be a movie star, the next day it would be a detective. Sometimes, when I look back at moments like these at 17 years of age, it makes me wonder, did I really embarrass myself like that?

These past 4 days have given me a perspective on where I am today, the direction I am heading towards, and how I must work my way up to accomplish it.

12. Sahala Sameer

Legacy School

Now what I've learned from that session was that many factors influence growth. Sometimes it's luck or sometimes it's the differences (geographic, institutional, or cultural) that allow some individuals or countries to grow when compared to others. Like, for instance, people like Raghuram Rajan, an Indian economist, and former RBI governor established an inflation target regime and helped make the Central Bank of India independent. He also predicted the 2008 financial crisis. Why am I saying this? It's because before the ISBF sessions I had no knowledge of it and it's ok to say that I didn't know economics played such an important role in his life that brought about a permanent, beneficial change in ours.

For me, finance was something I never envisioned myself doing. Mostly, because I didn't enjoy doing maths or accounts. But, after my session with Mr. Pushkal Pandey, I learnt about what exactly people in finance do. From managing money to making investments. I got to learn about stocks, bonds, how interest rates are determined, and more, which I wouldn't be aware of without attending the sessions. Of course, learning about the Economy, Industry Company, or the EIC approach was truly enlightening. I now understand how each decision made by the financial sector can influence taxation, the sector, or even as small as the day-to-day costs of a company.

I learned that if you're the smartest person in the room, then change the room you're in because you need to be challenged and better yourself every step of the way.

Some parts of the session like how to use google sheets and forms came in handy for my school projects. Knowing now more than ever, with the current global pandemic everything has been taken online. If I were to be applying for internships or to colleges then how to write emails to the point is very important. Whether what I'm writing is relevant, articulate, and fulfils its main objectives. There is a lot I need to work on before I get into choosing an appropriate career. The importance of possessing hard and soft skills. Networking and building communication skills on various platforms such as LinkedIn, Reddit, or Stack Exchange. With a possible career in academia or policymaking, I needed to be passionate, have a lot of patience, and have cross-cultural sensitivity because I get to travel a lot.

iASPIRE took me from being clueless and having a vague idea of EMF, to bringing me one step closer to my career. Knowing the kind of degree or courses I need to take in doing so has helped reduce the stress and confusion of looking for one. Here on out, I think choosing a degree might be a small decision but may open possibilities to many career choices.

13. Ishwarya S

Yuvabharathi Public School

Getting in conversation with these specialists gave me an in-depth knowledge of skills and qualifications that will be required for various career paths. Their tips also helped build a strong foundation towards the goal that I want to achieve. The sessions felt real which did not make me scared or anxious rather it was like a preview of the future.

14. Uday Sapra

Delhi Public School, Noida

Two sessions that I'll certainly reminisce about are Data Science and Entrepreneurship. Never have I ever sat glued to a zoom meeting for 2 consecutive hours, voraciously taken notes, and chuckled at the same time.

Intrigued by economics and finance, I've often had debates with my parents and counsellor regarding what subject I should major in. I've always been more inclined towards finance; financial markets, assets and their derivatives for instance have always compelled me. Analysing company balance sheets and financial ratios is something I had recently started to develop an interest in. In contrast to the opinion of my parents and counsellor, I was inclined more towards finance. The argument that was presented by the "opposition" was that finance has a limited scope, whereas economics, which essentially governs the financial system, enables and equips you to traverse a vast multitude of career options, including finance. Contrary to my expectations (or liking) this workshop did strengthen the claim of my "opposition", when Mr. Pranay Aggarwal (Investment Banking and Finance) and Mr. Gaurav Vohra (Accounting and Auditing) both economics majors shed light on their experiences.

15. Pratham Gada

Mithibai College

The conclusion I have drawn from my thinking is that - Pre-Covid and Post-Covid industry is going to be like the BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini) in history. Post-Covid the times are going to be different and the best will come out of them like winners.

When the Guest Speakers be it Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) or Professor James Abdey, London School of Economics shared their knowledge and experience on their respective fields, it was a godsend for confused students like me with questions that even search engines don't have answers to.

The teachers at ISBF added to this wonderful experience by sharing extra materials or tools than what the Guest Speaker spoke about. The Supreme and Hype branding article helped me gain impressive insights into the marketing side of fashion brands. Being a fan of Supreme myself it made me realize how even I'm successfully captured by the amazing branding of a brand that originated as a small shop in New York. If I might add, the Uber article on "binge-booking" Uber was something very new and out of the book than normal Behavioural Economic lectures.

16. Shreesh Gupta

Mayo College, Ajmer

What I found most insightful about iASPIRE was that it had an extraordinary layout of the workshop. From the speakers to the reflective journals, and the Q&A's, it was all fun and knowledgeable. Talking about the sessions, every session brought with it a sense of fulfilment and fascination.

Getting to know about Abhijit Banerjee and Raghuram Rajan was quite a gain as they have been some eminent personalities around the globe. The other thing that interested me was a small part of this presentation but still pushed my mind to research more about and that was the luminosity index. I actually sat for another hour or two after the day's sessions came to an end. I'll probably rate this session one of the best I have attended and due credits to the speaker Ms. Navni Kothari. Looking at things from a different perspective has been the biggest takeaway from iASPIRE.

Getting to know students from across the country was an exciting experience where we talked limitlessly about TV shows and music and of course the quarantine! It was enjoyable breaking the ice and discussing questions throughout, and I'm always up for a workshop again where I'll get to interact with wonderful speakers and peers.

These four days have been enriching, knowledgeable, informative and of course fun and have actually bifurcated my doubts and questions as opportunities like these don't come handy and I've been grateful to have made the choice to attend iASPIRE and learn so much from everyone.

17. Samaranjay Singh

Mayo College, Ajmer

These four days of constant learning and fun have been the most fruitful days I have had in a very long time. I have attended many webinars hoping something will come up and grab my interest, but I could never get the clarity I wanted. These four days gave me the required skills and clarity about the career fields I was aspiring for. iASPIRE has opened a world of opportunities for me. To be honest, I still do not know what I will be doing for my career, but this surely has put me on

the right path.

The scope of Economics, Management and Finance which I knew before and what I know today has a huge difference and that's only because of the quality and the quantity of content covered by distinguish speakers and our hosts which altogether has helped me create the correct mindset to achieve my future aspirations.

The session which I was looking forward to was "A Career in Marketing, Branding and Communications" I like to think of myself as a social networker and I am always up to meet new people and make new friends. I found the four 'Ps': Passion, Purpose, Positioning and Packaging very relatable and it cleared the doubts I had. Skills like creativity, imagination, influencing, and negotiation skills are important at every point of life and I found that this is the career I am most compatible with; this was solely because of the interesting and informative session we had.

I thank the ISBF team for creating such a great platform for students. I am sure all this effort put in by the team will not be wasted and will help us a great deal in our future.

18. Yusuf Siwani

Bangalore International School

Partaking in this course for a two-week period resulted in me realising the one-dimensional approach I had taken to this vast field known as Finance. I had always believed that understanding finance would be "the secret formula" to being successful as accounting is the language of any and every business. However, on the very first day I learnt that just being good at a subject does not make it a good fit for you. What I had noticed was that Economics and Management were closely knit with Finance as a subject.

What complemented the sessions that I had participated in even more were the important and continuous information about how versatile my future area of study (Finance) could be. This not only helped me in consolidating the idea of finance being important but also created a deeper understanding of how this field of study could help me grow as a person because of its various branches.

With the career opportunities presented to us I learnt the different fields in which one could actually travel and explore the world while working. Which in turn means I can potentially create a "dream job".

After experiencing such an informative and important workshop I have realised that the subjects I want to pursue are - a major in Financial Analysis and a minor in Sports Management and Economics. This might seem quite similar to what I thought two weeks ago but, I now have understood the importance and significance of each streamlined field. I gained insight into how it could not just help me as a person but also, how to use this knowledge to help others around the world by making a big impact. With this the next time someone asks me what I want to pursue in the future I will be able to respond with utter confidence and surety with not just what I want to do but why I want to do it, all thanks to the iASPIRE workshop.