

Master's programme “Financial Economics”, degree code 38.04.01 Economics

PORTFOLIO

1. Resume

Please prepare a standard resume that includes your academic achievements and work experience in reverse chronological order with degrees, titles, dates. Other information appropriate to a business resume is welcomed and encouraged. The resume should be no more than one page in length.

2. Motivation Letter

Please upload a personal statement that describes your academic interest in and understanding of the programme, as well as your purpose and objectives in undertaking this graduate study. 500 words.

3. Diploma and academic transcripts

Please scan and upload all copies of your academic records from all universities whose courses counted toward a degree. If your transcripts are not in English or in Russian, you are required to provide a certified translation of them. We ask that you scan both the original and translated copies and submit them with your application.

4. Text of your undergraduate thesis or scientific papers, publications

Please upload at least one writing sample.

5. IELTS (≥6.0), TOEFL (≥80), BEC V (grade A), BEC H, FCE (grades A, B), CAE, CPE certificates

All applicants whose native language is not English and who have not received their entire undergraduate education in an English-speaking country must submit valid scores from internationally recognized assessments of English language proficiency.

6. GMAT, GRE, GRE Mathematics Subject Test certificates* (optional)

These exams are not obligatory, but taking them and obtaining high scores can improve candidate's chances of successful application.

*ICEF's GRE Institution code 3848

7. Recommendation letters

You can submit letter(s) of recommendation (at least one from someone familiar with your academic work). Please provide your recommenders with [HSE's letter of recommendation guidelines](#).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The maximum grade is 100. Students' portfolio are evaluated against the following criteria: relevant academic background and academic performance, quality of students' research papers, certified personal achievements (e.g. winners of academic contests), references from an academic supervisor or renowned experts.

1. Academic background and academic performance (up to 50 points)

Grades on relevant (economic and mathematical) courses are considered with additional bonuses for the honors degree and participation in the [ICEF Summer Bridge School](#). International ranking of candidate's university is also considered and graded.

2. Scientific papers and publications (up to 30 points)

Points are given based on expert conclusions. Experts give points for:

- Scientific novelty of the paper
- Accordance with requirements of international peer-reviewed journals
- Methodology applied
- Theoretical model (for theoretical research)
- Data used choice and econometric techniques used (for empirical research)

3. Personal achievements of the candidate (up to 15 points)

Points are given based on expert conclusions. Experts give points for:

- University contests
- Diplomas and certificates
- Study / research grants
- Other competitions

GRE, GMAT – High scores in international exams (in one of the combinations below) add points to your portfolio. Applicants with scores higher than listed below automatically get maximum points for portfolio:

I.

GRE Subject Test in Math ≥ 700

+

GRE General

Quantitative reasoning: ≥ 165

Analytical writing: ≥ 3.5

or

II.

GRE Subject Test in Math ≥ 700

+

GMAT

Quantitative: ≥ 47

Total score: ≥ 650

**ICEF institution code for GRE is 3848*

4. Letters of recommendation from known experts (up to 5 points)

Points are given based on expert conclusions. Owners of recommendation letters from prominent economists receive up to 5 points.

5. Interview

The Admissions Committee may call the candidate for an interview in order to clarify the information provided. Interviews for international candidates are conducted via Skype and last 15-20 minutes. The final decision on the points attributed to the portfolio is based on the interview results. All interviews are by invitation only.