



## Very High Expectations



### **Christina B. Maier**

*Christina Maier, top 5% bachelor graduate from the renowned University of Munich, started the MiQEF program and has high expectations. She answers why she preferred studying economics at HSG, what she expects from MiQEF training, and which topics she intends to explore in her Master thesis.*

**With a grade point average among the top 5% of bachelor students in Munich, you would have had many alternatives to study at other top schools. Why did you prefer to study economics at HSG?**

I decided to apply for the HSG due to several reasons. Firstly, I wanted to supplement my theoretical knowledge in economics with advanced quantitative skills. The MiQEF master of the HSG provides exactly this opportunity. Moreover, this Master program of the HSG is relatively small, which makes it very easy to get in contact with the professors and also creates a very good learning environment within the individual classes. Second, besides the core subjects of the master program the HSG offers a wide range of interesting classes for example in the contextual studies field and has a lot of partner universities for doing an exchange semester abroad. Therefore, I expect that the MiQEF master of the HSG to highly support my academic as well as personal development. And finally, the HSG is very recommended in the business sector but also in the research scene. As MiQEF student both areas seemed important for me, thus, I decided to come to the HSG.

**The first semester tends to be quite intense in MEcon and MiQEF. How would you compare studying in Munich and St. Gallen?**

Comparing studying in Munich and St. Gallen, I would say that the focus here is much more on providing the students with a good mathematical background – already during the Bachelor degree in economics but especially in MiQEF. Personally, I assess this as a great advantage of the HSG (even if it might be tougher for students) as I think that it is very important – especially for economists - to be able to back theoretical findings with quantitative evidence. What I also like very much at the University of St. Gallen is the wide spectrum of classes one can choose in the contextual and personal leadership skills field. On



the one hand, courses in Matlab, Julia etc. are very helpful to learn how to apply the theoretical material of ones' classes. And on the other hand, they are a great opportunity to get a little bit of variety in the schedule and to develop personal skills which are also important to move on with the career later.

**Have you already thought about topics for a Master thesis?**

Yes I have already thought about topics: current research shows that capital misallocation has increased during at least the last fifteen years in the Southern European countries but also in Belgium, France and Germany. Capital is not always allocated to the most productive uses. This might be one reason for why we also observe a slowdown in the average total factor productivity growth in Southern European countries since 2000 and in all European countries since 2007. I think this is a very important research field as total factor productivity is a key determinant of long-run economic growth. I would love to contribute to the already existing work by investigating empirically how credit reallocation influences productivity in Germany and the role of banks in that process.

**What are your plans for the future? Which professional options do you want to cultivate?**

I am still not sure what I want to do exactly after university, as there are so many interesting options. Up until now I have several ideas in mind. For example, I can imagine working in the reinsurance sector as I did a very interesting internship at SwissRe last summer. But I would be also curious about working for an institution like the ECB, the European Financial Stability Facility, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority or for an economics consulting firm.

**Just in case you have left some spare time, what are your preferred hobbies?**

In general I love to be outside and hiking, volleyball, soccer and on sunny winter days snowshoeing are definitely some of my preferred hobbies. Here in St. Gallen I also enjoy very much meeting my friends in one of the lovely cafés for a hot chocolate or cooking altogether on Friday evening.