

RESEARCH WING: HEDGE GIVING THE EDGE IN LIFE

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The previous summer, I worked as a research analyst for Technical Analysis & Derivatives at Hedge Equities Limited. I worked on a team that integrated the Market Sentiments & Patterns model largely using macroeconomic indicators and international cues in the banking and financial services industries. A non-deposit taking NBFC with its headquarters in Kochi, Hedge Equities Ltd. is registered with the Reserve Bank of India. Mr. Alex K. Babu launched the business in 2011. The business is a member of the Hedge group of businesses, which also comprises equity brokerage firms Hedge Equities Ltd and Hedge Commodities Ltd. (commodity broking). It offers wealth management, capital markets, and other financial product services.

So, who works at Hedge Equities Ltd. as a research analyst? An individual who performs research, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data on markets, indices, finance/accounting, economics, participants, components, and other information linked to the stock market is known as a research analyst. I had the opportunity to work as a Research Analyst at Hedge as a part of a summer internship from April 2022 to June 2022. The Hedge School of Applied Economics developed the tasks and work specifications for this internship, and Hedge Equities is responsible for delivering them. Hedge Equities advertised four internships in the "Finance" sector: Fundamental Analysis, Technical Analysis and Derivatives, Portfolio Management, and Wealth Management.

I was given the duties of a research analyst in the field of derivatives and technical analysis. In order to complete 27 assignments linked to technical analysis, derivatives, and a macroeconomic examination of the Indian economy, the business provided interns 60 days. The internship's first duty was to analyse the macroeconomic issues affecting the Indian economy. Building portfolios, keeping track of our progress, and utilising futures and options techniques to hunt for trading opportunities and risk hedging were all tasks we had to complete. We also had to evaluate companies using technical analysis tools and indicators based on economic analysis. Every day, we also tracked developments in the economy and financial markets, monitored various indexes, and gathered and reported on market dynamics. The most notable of the numerous lessons are given here.

- 1. Rationale behind a Trade/Idea:** I learnt the art of conveying why am I taking this trade, what's the logic behind that? What would be my exit strategy, highlighting key takeaways for each trade. This ensured I had the attention of my audience and conveyed my point concisely.
- 2. Elevator Pitch:** I understood the importance of having an answer ready at all times. Whether it was an update I had to give in a case team meeting or an explanation when the manager questioned my hypothesis, I ensured I was well prepared and had an answer at hand. It was greatly valued and reflected my confidence and hard work.
- 3. Communication:** It was always better to communicate the minutest detail which I felt could be important to the team. It was a trade-off to being precise, but it ensured the team didn't get any surprises at a later stage. Interaction with senior executives regularly also led to constantly improving on oral & written communication skills which will hold you in good stead as and when we move on to something else.
- 4. Business Analysis:** Understanding how businesses work, what are the key strategic decisions, and what are those big differentiators that separate the winners from those who did not.
- 5. Networking:** It was helpful to utilize the company meetings or In-house and Classroom training to network with colleagues at Hedge Equities. Many times, I would get a solution by speaking up to those who had already encountered a similar problem.

To sum up, my offline internship at Hedge Equities ltd in Kochi was a rewarding experience. It was a time of enormous learning, both in terms of professional skills like trading and problem-solving and in terms of intellectual comprehension of the traits necessary for firms to succeed outside their USP.