

The risk-return spectrum states that high risk choices are associated with high potential returns. I believe that my parents' 'high risk' choice to home educate their children has definitely paid dividends. I was brought up on the ACE curriculum from the age of 5, and continued till I graduated on the ICCE Advanced level at 17. During the ICCE Intermediate level, there was great uncertainty about the career that I had to choose, however, with immense support and advice from my family, and the procurement of various work experience through friends, God certainly 'let there be light' on the career path that he wanted me to pursue. Whilst completing my Advanced level, taking a Social Studies bias with Business, I applied to many universities through UCAS, and by God's grace I was offered a place at all of my five choices. Through much prayer, I confirmed my place at Cass Business School, which is part of City University London, to study Accounting and Finance with a placement year.

When I started university this September, I was terrified of the leap from the life of a home educated student to a university student. However, throughout my life I have experienced the incredible grace of God in every situation, and university was not an exception. I feel that being home educated with the ICCE was not a barrier to entry, but a blessing which prepared me for the real world. Even my personal tutor, who is the course director, was highly impressed by the fact that homeschooling prepared me exceptionally well, as she said it had enabled me to develop vital skills such as independent learning, time management, self-motivation and good ethics, which are core skills that most A-level students do not possess before university.

Presently, I am in my first year of Accounting and Finance at Cass Business School, still adapting to the expected, high work rate of university learning. In all honesty, my first exam was very different to the PACE tests I was accustomed with! Nevertheless, I know that God has a plan for my life; He has honoured and will continue to respect my parents' wise decision to home educate me. There is a wise saying that my mother taught me from a young age, and it still holds true in my life to this day – "Take one step for God, and He will take two steps for you."

*Benjamin Dharmanandan, November 2014*