

My Internship Journey as a **Venture Debt Investment Analyst** at Genesis Alternative Ventures

By: Yuan Khai Qi



Why did I join Genesis:

I was always keen on a corporate banking role and a venture capital investment role. Venture debt was something new to me and I wanted to learn more about debt financing and how its role is becoming more relevant in Southeast Asia. When I chanced upon the internship role at Genesis, I was intrigued to learn that the founders at Genesis were former bankers and venture capitalists.

What I learned from my internship:

During my six-month stint with Genesis, I was very fortunate to be involved in various aspects of the investment deal cycle from origination to diligence. I was even involved in several live deals. Genesis has a nurturing environment where the senior partners impart knowledge such as analytical skills and financial modelling techniques. In addition, interns were coached on presentation and writing skills to draft investment proposals and present deals for approval at investment committee meetings. I shadowed the deal team doing due diligence on the active deals and further honed my analytical and technical skills. This process has been beneficial towards cultivating my skills in analyzing opportunities across different sectors and industries. I now have a better appreciation of a startup business model, their financial health, and other key metrics used to qualify the merits and assess the risks of each deal.

Genesis is also a venture lender with the aim to foster long-term impact in Southeast Asia by selectively investing in and providing value-add to portfolio companies that look to implement appropriate Sustainable Development Goals. I was involved in developing the ESG and Impact evaluation systems used in most due diligence and portfolio management processes. This experience allowed me to have a clearer view of the difference between ESG and Impact Investing.

To cap it off, I had the opportunity to participate in a hybrid online-offline event, the Genesis Forum, and also internal meetings involving the fund investors. Even though this was my first time planning for a large-scale event, I had guidance from the Genesis team and learned how to manage many external stakeholders. This allowed me to improve my communication and coordination skills.

I believe that these three learning points have helped me grow and improve personally and professionally. The short stint at Genesis gave me valuable life lessons and I enjoyed working there. The skills that I've acquired will help me to progress in my studies and my next internship, an opportunity at a public listed bank in Singapore as a Sector Solution Group intern.

What I like about my internship experience:

Genesis works and plays like a closely knitted family, every team member is nurturing and helpful. Despite the busy schedule of the senior partners, they were always happy to clear any doubt and guide me when I was looking for answers.

Challenges that I met during my internship

The event management process was an unforgettable experience that was both fulfilling and challenging at the same time. Every step of the process needs to be executed with precision leaving little room for error. This management experience will help me throughout my career and get me better prepared for my future endeavours.

My advice for future interns:

Do not be afraid to ask questions. Don't ask, don't get. We are here to learn as much as possible. 😊