Introduction to the HSBC Quant Academy

Concluding the EMBA Journey

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Philippe De Brouwer

Academic and Professional Profile Dr. Philippe De Brouwer holds a background in theoretical physics and earned a second Master's degree in Business Engineering while working full time. His academic distinction includes solving the "fallacy of large numbers" puzzle, originally posed by P.A. Samuelson and unresolved for 38 years. In his Ph.D., he challenged the foundational assumptions of Harry Markowitz's Nobel Prize-winning Mean Variance Theory, developing the "Maslowian Portfolio Theory" and fundamentally advancing the field of investment advice.

Career Highlights Early in his career, De Brouwer transitioned from insurance to banking and from IT to asset management. At Fortis (now BNP Paribas), he played a key role in launching one of Belgium's first capital-guaranteed funds and was promoted to director in 2000. In 2002, he joined KBC, where he orchestrated the merger of four companies and became CEO of the consolidated entity in 2005. Under his leadership, the company climbed from 11th to 5th in the market, even amid heightened competition.

Following the financial crisis, De Brouwer led the creation of a new investment management company for KBC in Ireland, which quickly grew to manage around 1000 investment funds and approximately €32 billion in assets. In 2012, he broadened his expertise into financial risk management, focusing on statistics, analytics, data, and numerical methods.

Recent Roles and Publications De Brouwer served as Head of Analytics Development for the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and currently holds the position of SVP at HSBC in Kraków. There, he oversees the Model Review Centre of Excellence and serves as Global Head of Professional Practices for Model Risk Management. He also coordinates collaboration with universities.

He has authored numerous scientific papers and books, with his latest being "The Big R-Book: From Data Science to Big Data and Learning Machines." His work continues to influence both academic and practical approaches to finance, risk, and data science.

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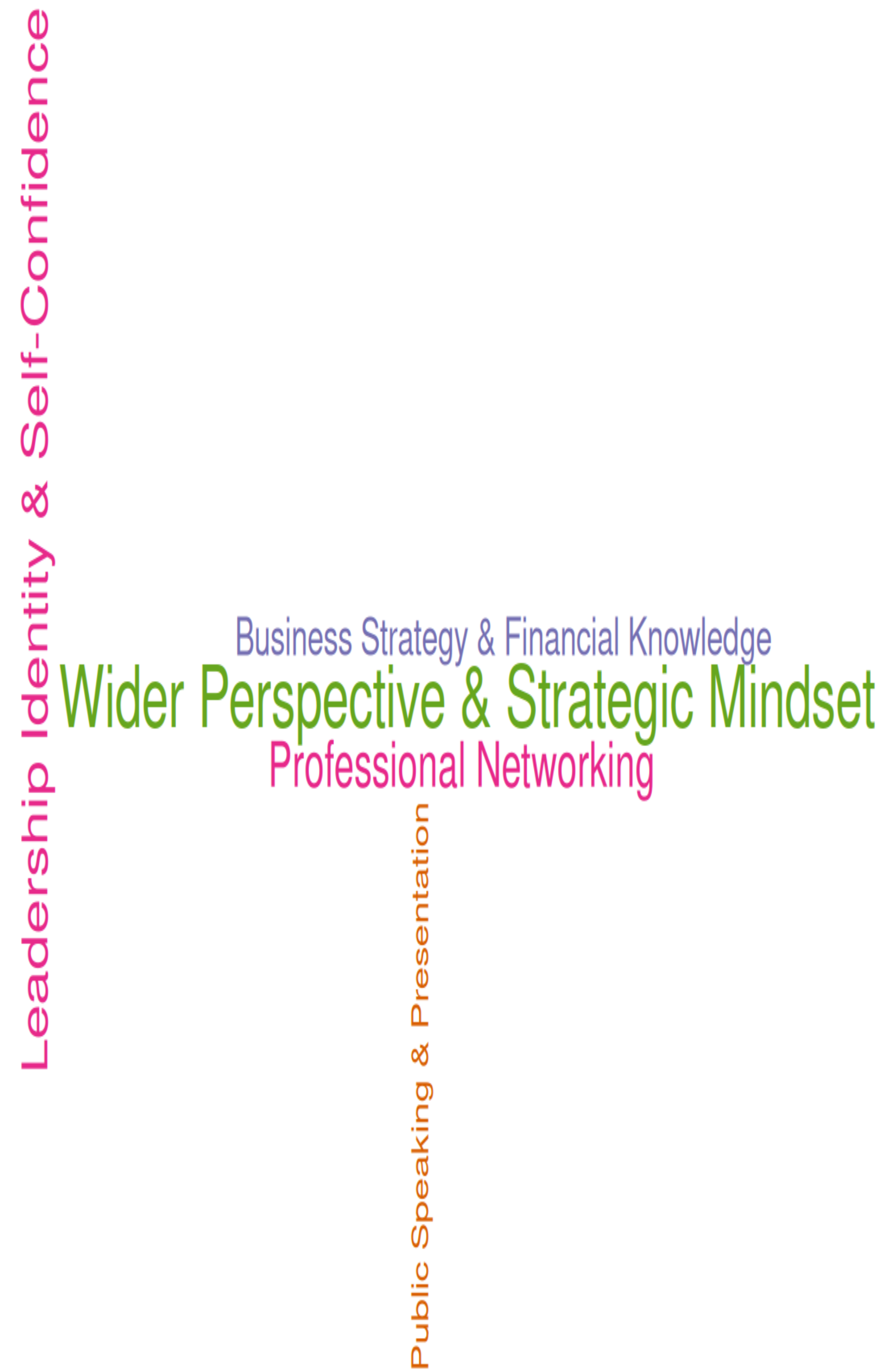
1 Your Input

What was your key learning point?


Academic Milestones (Dissertation)
Systems Thinking & Perspective
Public Speaking & Presentations
Adaptive & Question-Based Leadership
Strategy, Finance & Change
Data-Driven Decisions & Tools

How did the EMBA help you so far?


Leadership Identity & Self-Confidence
Business Strategy & Financial Knowledge
Wider Perspective & Strategic Mindset
Professional Networking
Public Speaking & Presentation

What do you plan after the MBA?


Leadership Identity & Personal Reflection
Continuous Learning & Further Study
Career Pivot, Growth & Ventures
Professional Networking
Applying Knowledge & Impactful Action

How can this last course help you on that journey?

Bridge to Practice

Practical & Actionable Insights

Reflection & Self-Awareness

VUCA & AI Leadership

Networking & Peer Connection

Career & Future Direction