

Press Release

AXA Private Equity Foundation signs £100,000 sponsorship deal with Cass Business School

Students to benefit from new £25,000 scholarship for MSc in Corporate Finance

London, March 7th, 2012 – AXA Private Equity announces today that it has signed a £100,000 sponsorship agreement with the M&A Research Centre at Cass Business School, part of City University London. The leading European diversified private equity firm, through its charitable foundation created in 2010, is the latest high-profile sponsor to join the centre which carries out research into the global M&A industry.

As part of the agreement, AXA Private Equity Foundation is offering students a two-month paid summer internship in conjunction with a full scholarship* for Cass's new post-graduate degree in Corporate Finance.

AXA Private Equity Foundation is an endowment fund which sponsors educational, cultural and social entrepreneurship initiatives with the aim of supporting the educational aspirations of young people.

Dominique Senequier, CEO, AXA Private Equity, said: "We have always held that firms like AXA Private Equity have a major role to play in the promotion of knowledge, social mobility and equal opportunity. As such we have been steadily building our sponsorship programs over the last few years internationally.

"We are pleased to work with an academic partner with the quality and reputation of Cass Business School. We were keen to partner with a top-level, UK-based business school with an international aspect. We are particularly proud to be able to help establish a new scholarship for the school's first post graduate degree in Corporate Finance. We also look forward to drawing on the M&A Research Centre's depth of insight and first-class data to explore a range of industry themes and trends."

Richard Gillingwater, Dean of Cass Business School, said: "We are delighted to welcome AXA Private Equity on board as a major corporate sponsor. The arrival of a leading player in the private equity market will bring important new ideas and experience to the M&A Research Centre.

"The M&A Research Centre is a unique platform for our corporate partners to access world-class research, talented recruits, and international networking opportunities. By combining the expertise of our City sponsors and Cass academics, we aim to provide valuable commercial insights for professionals across the M&A industry."

Commenting on the announcement of the new scholarship, Professor Scott Moeller, Director of the M&A Research Centre, added: "Sponsored by one of the most highly regarded names in international financial services, the scholarship is a unique opportunity for a student each year to launch their careers in finance. Not only will the partnership provide a fully-funded place on our new MSc in Corporate Finance, it will also open up new work experience and employment opportunities. We are truly grateful to AXA Private Equity for their generous support."

Due to start in September 2012, the MSc in Corporate Finance is a one-year post-graduate degree based on Cass's highly-ranked MSc in Finance. It will allow students to specialise in corporate finance by studying core modules in M&A, private equity and risk management.

Applications for the scholarship will be judged by an essay competition and interview open to all students who have been accepted on the programme. Further details on how to apply will be announced later this month.

The M&A Research Centre, launched in 2008, is the first of its kind at a major business school. The centre conducts research on emerging M&A topics ranging from deal origination and closing to financing and integration.

Among the research published by the centre is the annual M&A Maturity Index, which ranks the maturity of M&A markets in 175 countries. The centre has also conducted influential research for the UK Government into the economic impact of M&A on the UK economy.

The other senior sponsors of the centre are Credit Suisse and Ernst & Young

*Currently approximately £22,500

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PRESS CONTACTS

Chris Johnson, Press Officer, Cass Business School
Tel: +44 (0)20 7040 5210
e-mail: chris.johnson.1@city.ac.uk

Daniel Kahn, HeadLand Consultancy
Tel: +44 (0)20 7367 5247
e-mail: dkahn@headlandconsultancy.co.uk

ABOUT CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Cass Business School, which is part of City University London, delivers innovative, relevant and forward-looking education, training, consultancy and research. Located in the heart of one of the world's leading financial centres, Cass is the business school for the City of London.

Our MBA, specialist Masters and undergraduate degrees have a global reputation for excellence, and the School supports nearly 100 PhD students.

Cass offers the widest portfolio of specialist Masters programmes in Europe. It also has the largest faculties of Finance and Actuarial Science and Insurance in the region. It is ranked in the top 10 UK business schools for business, management and finance research and 90% of the research output is internationally significant. Cass is a place where students, academics, industry experts, business leaders and policy makers can enrich each other's thinking. For further information visit: www.cass.city.ac.uk.

ABOUT M&A RESEARCH CENTRE (MARC)

MARC is the Mergers and Acquisitions Research Centre at Cass Business School, City University London – the first research centre at a major business school to pursue focused leading-edge research into the global mergers and acquisitions industry.

MARC blends the expertise of key M&A market participants with the academic excellence of Cass to provide fresh insights into the world of deal-making.

Corporations, regulators, professional services firms, exchanges and universities use MARC for swift access to research and practical ideas. From deal origination to closing, from financing to integration, from the hottest emerging markets to the boardrooms of the biggest corporations, MARC researches the wide spectrum of mergers, acquisitions and corporate restructurings.

The Centre is proud to have its senior sponsors, Credit Suisse and Ernst & Young, and sponsors, Mergermarket and the ICAEW, as research partners -- and now welcomes AXA Private Equity.

ABOUT AXA PRIVATE EQUITY

AXA Private Equity is a leading private equity firm with US\$28bn in managed assets and a global reach extending across Europe, North America and Asia. The firm offers investors the full spectrum of private equity services for every market segment: direct funds, infrastructure financing, mid cap and small cap buyouts, innovation & growth, co-investments, fund of funds as well as private debt.

With offices in Paris, Frankfurt, New York, Singapore, Milan, London, Zurich, Vienna and Luxembourg, AXA Private Equity supports the development and long-term growth of its portfolio companies with sustainable growth strategies and by granting them access to the AXA international network. AXA Private Equity has earned the trust of its investors by regularly supplying them with transparent performance data on its funds and portfolio companies.

AXA Private Equity, Global Investments the European way.

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Cass Business School
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON



AXA Private Equity
Foundation