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# Lana Lovasic

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Nationalities : Canadian, Croatian



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## EDUCATION

**September 2008 – present**

**IOMBA program, MBA, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland**

- Academic portion completed, diploma expected after evaluation of internship thesis in March 2010.
- IOMBA is a specialized, intensive program that applies traditional MBA skills and courses to the social, environmental and public sectors.
- Overall GPA: 5.3 (on a 6.0 scale), earned highest possible designation of “**Tres Bien**” (“Very Good”).

**December 2007**

**GMAT Test, Toronto, Canada**

- Total score **680** (86%)

**September 1998 – June 2003**

**Honours Bachelor of Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada**

- Completed a Major in Psychology and a Major in Zoology with a cumulative GPA of 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale)
- **Awards: John Carriere Summer Studentship, 2002:** A studentship grant given annually by the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, awarded for my behavioural research at the university.

## WORK & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

***The Townships Project & Tembeka Social Investment, South Africa***

***Microfinance Intern***

*July 2009 – present*

- A consulting internship with a rural South African microfinance institution in crisis, the goal of which was to analyze its accounts, operations and overall strategy.
- As a result of my work, the organization is connected to the internet and account management is more efficient. Adoption of my suggestions for organizational improvements have raised efficiency by 50%.
- Now developing management incentive policies to increase repayment rates, as well as following up on newly identified sources of funding and potential board members.

***Zimbabwe Advocacy Office, Geneva, Switzerland***

***Strategy Consultant***

*Apr. 2009 – July 2009*

- Helped develop a clear and focused strategy, mission, and vision in order to attract more funding.
- Key skills honed were the use of strategy analysis frameworks, development of tools for measurement and evaluation, analysis and strategy development, and presentation skills and business planning.
- Adoption of our strategy by the Board resulted in additional funding and avoidance of shut-down.

***Richardson Partners Financial, Mississauga and Toronto, Canada***

***Branch Assistant***

*Nov. 2007 – Aug. 2008*

- Supported investment advisors through a wide range of tasks based around daily operations, such as event planning, office administration and co-ordination, client services, and some marketing tasks.
- Originating as a temporary regional post, my position was promoted to the head office on a permanent basis, due to my performance.

***JET Programme, Nagasaki-ken, Japan***

***Prefectural Education Center ALT***

*Aug. 2006 – Aug. 2007*

*The JET programme is a highly competitive program that brings international university graduates to Japan to facilitate cross-cultural exchange and language instruction through the Japanese public school system.*

- In the promoted position of Education Center ALT, I was responsible for helping run the Nagasaki prefecture program, helping oversee some 150+ foreign ALTs.
- Organized conferences and seminars for teachers, provided opinions on public education policy regarding English instruction, and acted as mediator between Japanese and foreign teachers.

- Coordinated local events, such as charity drives and social nights, and administered an online forum to transition foreign language teachers into the Japanese working culture.

Aug. 2005 – Aug. 2006

**Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)**

- Taught English in a business high school in rural Japan in my first year on the program.
- Promoted internationalization through organization of International Days and founding a French/English club in the school.
- Helped students train for speech competition, one of whom took second place nationally.

**Moneris Solutions, Toronto, Canada**

**Chargeback Officer/Relations Officer**

Nov. 2003 – Aug. 2005

- Handled and mediated MasterCard dispute cases according to MasterCard International standards.
- Applied both analytical and problem solving skills to difficult situations involving multiple stakeholders.
- Originated as a data entry officer, but was quickly promoted to Relations Officer, a role necessitating customer interaction and handling of significant sums of money.

**Center for Research in Neurodegenerative Disease, Toronto, Canada**

**Research Assistant**

Nov. 2001 – May 2003

- Helped design and test innovative methods of measuring Alzheimer's treatment efficacy, through application of biological and psychological principles to memory testing in animals.
- Main duties included generating research proposals and collecting and analyzing behavioural data, culminating in the publication of scientific articles and conference presentations of the findings.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**Co-President of Net Impact chapter at University of Geneva (Sep. 08 – July 09):**

*Net Impact is an international organization that promotes use of business principles for social impact.*

- As elected co-president, I helped organize local charity fundraisers, introduced recycling to our campus, organized speaker series on relevant topics and helped arrange a large international festival.
- On top of full-time MBA coursework, I managed 10-20 volunteers as part of this role.

**Geneva Forum on Social Change ([www.gfsc2009.com](http://www.gfsc2009.com)), Education Panel Coordinator (Dec. 08 – May 09):**

- I helped with the overall organization of this inaugural event, featuring Desmond Tutu as a keynote speaker, in addition to my main role as coordinator for the 'Education in Conflict Zones' panel.

**Martial Arts (1992 – present):**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan (Black Belts) in Iaido (sword) and in Jodo (staff); 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Shotokan Karate; 3 years as instructor.
- 3 years on Varsity fencing team: 8<sup>th</sup> place in individual and 4<sup>th</sup> place in team competition.
- In Japan, I graded for both my 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan in only 2 years – a feat requiring my presence at the dojo every weekday at 6 am for the first year.

**Publications:**

- **L. Lovasic**, H. Bauschke, C. Janus. *Working memory impairment in a transgenic amyloid precursor protein TgCRND8 mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.* Genes, Brain and Behavior. Vol 4, 2005
- C. Janus, H. Welzl, A. Hanna, **L. Lovasic**, N. Lane, P. St. George-Hyslop, D. Westaway. *Impaired conditioned taste aversion learning in APP transgenic mice.* Neurobiology of Aging, Vol 25, 2003

**Other volunteer activity:**

- African Medical Research Foundation: assisted at fundraising gala, seminars (Apr. – June 2008).
- Helped a war veteran with grape picking and wine making in Samobor, Croatia (Aug. – Nov. 2007)
- Cultural & language exchange with a group of retired ladies in Shimabara, Japan (Sep 2005 – Jul 2006).

## **SKILLS**

- **Languages:** English (Fluent); Croatian (Fluent); French (Competent); Japanese (Basic)
- Excellent computer skills: Windows (all versions), Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), Mac
- Well developed analytical and critical thinking abilities
- Experienced leader and manager in multicultural and international settings
- Excellent communication and presentations skills
- Highly motivated, focused and organized