

# The Pros & Cons Investment Banking Analyst

## PROS

- **Responsibility early:** Analysts can be given lots of responsibility early on in their career.
- **Salary:** Attractive salary at the outset with bonus earning potential later on.
- **Training:** the programs offered by the Wall Street Banks are very thorough & give analysts an excellent foundation in finance as well as valuable hands on experience. On-the-job training gives you exposure to some of the most interesting & dynamic transactions on Wall Street.
- **Steep learning curve:** Learning is intense and analysts will be working with some of the brightest, and most demanding people on Wall Street. The knowledge you will build in Corporate Financial analysis looks very good on any resume.
- **Skill development:** you will develop a broad set of skills from analytical to oral, written & interpersonal.
- **Team Work:** The industry doesn't survive without it! Working in a team environment where everyone is focused & professional can be very rewarding.
- **Career foundation:** Gives you a solid basis to develop & continue a career in finance – possibly moving into Private Equity or Venture Capital in the future. (Typically analysts are head hunted by PE or VC firms for jobs after their 2 year Investment Banking Analyst stint). Exit opportunities are attractive. Some even move into the entrepreneurial arena where financial knowledge is extremely valuable.

## CONS

- **Hours:** Without question one of the biggest drawbacks are the hours that Investment Bankers work. It is not unusual to be expected to work through the night when deal flow is high.

Working weekends is also common when deals are close to being struck. The markets might be closed but the Investment Bank is open 24/7. Analysts should be prepared to have to cancel personal plans at very short notice.

- **Love the cube!** Much of the day is spent in a cube for hours poring over financial statements & churning out spreadsheets & presentations. Early on there are very few chances to get out of the office or even attend clients meetings.
- **Low Tolerance for Errors:** Analysts must be able to learn quickly and always work to a very high standard from day one, paying very close attention to detail.
- **Strong Personalities:** Analysts will be working with many different and strong personalities. The industry is intensely competitive and people are profit hungry by nature. This in turn creates a very high pressure environment.
- **The non-glamorous work!** Analysts will often be asked to complete tasks which aren't glamorous – like photocopying, booking meeting rooms, organizing client dinners.
- **The 2-Year itch:** Analysts will often move onto a new firm or career after the first 2 years.