

I was born and raised in a small rural town in Tuscany. The tiny community I grew up in, while supportive and tight-knit, was very inward looking and conformist. Almost every family had lived in that very area for generations and some had never left the country. By the time I became a teenager, I began to feel confined and limited by the lack of cultural experience and awareness permeating my daily life.

I soon had a burning curiosity to see what lied beyond the borders of Tuscany. My calling came as I turned sixteen and found a study abroad opportunity through some independent online research. I left to the furthest place I could think of – Australia – where I spent a few months living with a family and attending a local high school in Queensland. That experience opened up a whole world of opportunity, as I began thinking about the potential of living and studying abroad, which is something my older classmates had never done and my high school did not encourage.

I developed a keen interest for the American liberal arts system and was fortunate to be accepted to Yale College. As part of my degree in Economics, I took a class on global affairs centered on the future of energy supply. I was incredibly enthralled by the inextricable layers of complexity of the energy sector, which required executives to hone the ability of second level thinking: the success of any business initiative hinged on a careful equilibrium of many variables, from financial structuring to macroeconomic and political savvy.

Upon graduating from Yale, I knew that I wanted to explore the energy industry as a career. I went to work in M&A, spending most of my time in the Energy team at Evercore in London. I was fortunate to work across an incredibly vast array of business segments, ranging from oil and gas production to equipment manufacturing. Yet I still wanted to move to a position where I would be actively involved in making investment decisions and be accountable for their performance. I thus took up an opportunity to join EISER Infrastructure, a European private equity fund where I focused on managing portfolio companies in the energy space, with a particular focus on Italy. Thanks to the fund’s small deal teams and senior management’s confidence in my analyses, I have been fortunate to be granted a high degree of independence in the evaluation of investment opportunities.

I believe that I have gained substantial experience and expertise in the energy infrastructure space; but I also believe that, to become a good investor, I have to become a good businessman, too.

Hence my decision to pursue an MBA at Stanford. I trust that I would thrive in a diverse and stimulating community such as the Stanford one, and that I could contribute my personal and corporate experience to classroom discussion. I have had the opportunity to meet several GSB alumni, and I was impressed by a recurrent theme: namely, the Stanford curriculum continuously promotes collaboration and teamwork, as students compete against themselves rather than others. A number of schools can boast Nobel prize winners and famed CEOs among their alumni, yet Stanford seems to be the one that best guarantees concrete opportunities to interact with them, through first-quarter seminars, student trips and campus events.

After Stanford, I am hoping to work in the private equity space, albeit with a more generalist focus than just on the energy infrastructure sector. I also believe there is great potential for mid-market private equity and credit opportunities in Italy, a space and geography which have been shunned by investors for too long. In the long term, I am hoping to leverage my corporate experience and Stanford MBA to make a positive impact on my country’s business environment and growth prospects.