

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Laurier to offer first co-op Master of Finance program in Canada**

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WATERLOO — The Laurier School of Business & Economics (SBE) is introducing the first Canadian full-time co-operative Master of Finance program, which is specifically designed around the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exams.

Set to begin in September 2008, this exclusive Master of Finance degree is part of Laurier's expanding graduate program and is targeted at students who want to pursue careers in finance that demand both extensive financial knowledge as well as excellent quantitative research skills. The program also provides students with the opportunity to prepare and write CFA levels I and II exams, a globally recognized professional designation.

"This program is responding to a real demand in the marketplace," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's dean of business and economics. "It is an opportunity for students to engage in post-graduate education that has a strong application in the real world."

The program responds to the growing industry need for finance professionals with extensive econometric skills. Graduates will be able to use econometric software to conduct empirical research in equities, fixed incomes, derivative products, corporate finance and portfolio management. Positions in the financial industry that require this depth of analytical skills are found in major banks, pension funds, insurance companies and consulting firms.

"Laurier SBE is well positioned to deliver the program because of our reputable finance faculty and our co-op placement program, which has close ties to the financial services industry," said Hamid Noori, professor and director of PhD & Masters Programs for Laurier SBE. "We are thrilled to offer this innovative program, which will train graduates who will be essential to the Canadian financial industry."

The duration of the program is eighteen months, which includes an eight-month co-op placement with firms in the financial services industry.