

Eren Bilen

CGS-AS, MA Economics 2016

PhD candidate, Economics

My first exposure to statistics was during my undergraduate studies in economics. At that time, I could not fully understand how and why statistics worked even though I was able to construct confidence intervals and test hypotheses. It was only after taking STAT 700 – Applied Statistics I as part of my MA in Economics that I was truly introduced to the beauty of statistics. I was able to make the connections that R.A. Fisher, Karl Pearson, and many other great statisticians showed a century ago. The extra time spent in class interpreting the obtained results was greatly appreciated. After all, statistics is about extracting information from data and interpreting it. Moreover, by using programming languages R and SAS, STAT 540 – Computing in Statistics, tremendously helped me see the statistical forces in action. For instance, it was really enlightening to learn how to conduct a Monte-Carlo experiment to witness how the Central Limit Theorem works as the sample size gets larger. After taking these courses, I was definitely interested in learning more about statistics. Thus, I decided to sign up for a Certificate of Applied Statistics – CAS and enroll in more courses offered by the department to further broaden my knowledge in statistics. What I learned while working on my CAS is invaluable to me as a PhD candidate in Economics. I use critical statistical thinking whenever I encounter an econometric problem and apply fundamental statistical techniques to solve it by using computer programming.

