



ERIC BOWLER

MBA SCHOLARSHIP 2017/18

Year of birth: 1985

Place of birth: Park Ridge (Illinois – USA)

Enrolled in the Full-Time MBA 43

SDA Bocconi School of Management

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

“SDA Bocconi is the vehicle which is helping drive the change in my life. Each day I collaborate with extremely bright, motivated and talented Professors and fellow students. Through these interactions and our broader shared experience in the MBA 43 I can say that I have become a better person. Upon graduation, I will look to leverage my improved skills and renewed passion to serve society and contribute to making the world a better place – hopefully from here in Italy (like Mariano from MBA 42 I also love this country)!”

My experience at SDA Bocconi, which honestly would not have been possible without you, has been nothing short of life changing and for that I offer you my most heartfelt gratitude.”

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Eric earned a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana, USA) in May 2008. Both in 2007 and 2008, he was listed in the Purdue University Dean’s List, an honorific award for excellent students at Purdue University.

Before deciding to enroll in a Master degree, he took part in the two-year Whirlpool Engineering Rotational Leadership Development (WERLD) Program at Whirlpool Corporation.

In 2011, he passed Level 1 Exam at the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute, and he attended a Summer Introductory Crash Course in Entrepreneurship at ESADE Business School.

For his graduate degree, he decided to broaden his horizons, completing a Master of Science **in Sustainable Energy Systems at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm (Sweden), while at the same time completing a program in Energy Engineering at Politecnico di Torino in Turin (Italy). Indeed, he took part in the Environomical Pathways for Sustainable Energy Systems (SELECT)**, a research oriented Master of Science jointly realized by five top-level European institutions. He graduated in 2012 with a thesis on “Deep Energy Retrofitting the US Housing Stock.”

Both in 2011 and 2012, he was recipient of the Erasmus Mundus Category A Scholarship.

In 2012, he also took part in the Hult Global Case Challenge (Hult Prize) Energy Track Runner Up, representing the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) at world’s largest business case competition. He achieved runner up in Energy Track out of hundreds of original applicants, and he presented his business model in New York’s Public Library, getting it launched in East Africa.

Eric speaks an intermediate level of Italian, and after participating in an exchange program in Karlsruhe (Germany), he has **basic German skills**.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Eric began his career soon after completing his degree. Since 2012, he has held a variety of roles:

- From 2012 to 2013, he was **Project Engineer of the Residential Energy & Water Systems Lead, Sustainability Center of Excellence at Whirlpool Corporation** in Benton Harbor (USA)
- Then, from 2014 to 2016, he was **Senior Engineer in the Residential Energy & Water Systems Lead, Sustainability Center of Excellence at the same Whirlpool Corporation** in Benton Harbor
- Since 2016 he has been a self-employed **Consultant Engineer** in Rome (Italy)

VOLUNTEER WORK

Being of service to his community has been important to Eric since he was a child participating in Boy Scouts. Through scouting he was introduced to community service with small projects, that set the foundation for him to look for other opportunities to provide service throughout his life.

When he began working for Whirlpool Corporation, he had the opportunity to help children of the local community. With some colleagues, he decided to organize a monthly event e called “Science Discovery Days”, in which they took turns creating a specific activity and guiding the children through it to inspire their interest in learning more about science.

In between the two years of Masters program, he went to Tanzania for a month. There **he volunteered with a solar company in order to fix issues with their solar installations in schools and orphanages.** He also built a hand-powered washing machine to help the staff of the hotel he was staying in to avoid washing the bedding with their hands in a bucket, as they were accustomed to.

After returning from Tanzania, he competed in the Hult Prize, where the task was to develop a way to promote the growth of solar lighting in Africa, directly contributing to the alleviation of energy poverty. His group developed a model that relied on mobile phone ownership, micro lending and mobile money payment. They finished runner up in the overall competition, but the company they developed the business case for implemented their solution.

Most recently, **he launched the ReNEWW House, a sustainable living showcase and live-in laboratory located on the campus of Purdue University** where he organized many open house events for students and others in the community to teach them about the technology used so they could improve their homes as well.

But this is not enough, indeed Eric states: **“In the future I will continue to find opportunities to contribute to the alleviation of energy poverty and provide educational experiences to those of developed countries on the benefits of sustainable energy.”**

WHY AN MBA AT SDA BOCCONI

Eric decided to move to Italy because – after four years working in the United States – **he was ready to make a change.** He became enamored with Milan after just a few months, and he decided to try the admission at SDA Bocconi. He wanted to join the 2017/18 full time MBA program at SDA Bocconi in order to enhance his business, leadership and financial acumen to apply these skills in his desired career of ensuring the sustainable transformation of the energy industry.