

Quantitative analyst

Use math, statistics and code to find patterns in markets and build the models that trade on them.

TYPICAL PAY

\$250,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$150k to \$660k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 10 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Trading firms, hedge funds, investment banks, asset managers

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grade 12
The most advanced math you can take, plus programming. Math contests help a lot.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Math, statistics, computer science, physics or engineering, at a school trading firms recruit from.
- 3 Internships** 1 to 2 summers
Firms hire most new staff from summer interns. Applications open about a year ahead.
- 4 Master's or PhD, for researchers** 1 to 6 years
Many research roles want a PhD in a quantitative field. Traders and developers often start after a bachelor's.
- 5 First quant job** 1 to 2 years
Months of training, then your own models or trades under close watch.

Pros and cons

- + Some of the highest starting pay anywhere
- + Hard, interesting problems every day
- + No licence needed for most roles
- Very few jobs and fierce competition
- Bonus swings with the firm's results
- Most research ideas never work

Optional boosts

Fast, accurate mental math. Probability puzzles. Strong coding. Contest or research results.

Good to know

One salary for a whole class

In 2025 work visa filings, Jane Street listed a base salary of \$300,000 on 32 of its 48 filings in New York, for traders and engineers alike.

A trading firm posts a puzzle every month

Jane Street has published a new math puzzle on its website every month for years, and lists the people who solve it.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Financial and Investment Analysts (13-2051.00)

My Next Move: Financial Quantitative Analysts (13-2099.01)

H1B Salary Database: Jane Street base salary filings, 2025

H1B Salary Database: Citadel Securities base salary filings, 2025

Numbers checked October 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise.

Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/quantitative-analyst>



Scan for the full clicker