

Donald Zvada

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Profile

Currently is a committed master's student at s (AIMS) South Africa/Stellenbosch University. I hold a Bachelor's Honours degree in Operations Research and Statistics from the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe, with a strong foundation in data-driven problem-solving. My current research focuses on assessing the ability of Large Language Models to solve sequential decision-making problems.

Professional Experience

12/2023 – 08/2024 Harare, Zimbabwe	Quantitative Risk Analyst <i>EY Zimbabwe</i> Credit risk model development and validation for clients to ensure they are compliant with IFRS 9 Standard. PD, LGD, EAD & MEV models -IFRS9 Model Validation and review support on audit assignments -Development, implementation or review of IFRS 9 frameworks/systems/tools.
2021 – 2022 Harare, Zimbabwe	Intern <i>EcoCash Holding</i> Reporting Analyst, Product Solutions and Operations management Preparation reports, Product testing (dev environment ~beta tests), scheduling, data analysis, competitor analysis ,meetings presentations, sharing quotations, customer queries, data entry,data cleaning, data analysis,data exploration ~visualizations (Microsoft Excel and PowerBI

Education

09/2024 – 07/2025 Capetown, South Africa	Msc, Mathematical Sciences <i>AIMS (South Africa) , Stellenbosch University</i> Pure Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, ML
2019 – 2023 Bulawayo, Zimbabwe	Bsc Hons in Operations Research and Statistics <i>National University of Science and Technology</i> 1st Division (Overall Best graduating male student, class of 2023)
2017 – 2018	High School <i>Centenary High School</i> Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Economics & Geography

Awards

09/2024	MasterCard Foundation Scholarship <i>MasterCard Foundation</i> Fully sponsored scholarship
2023	Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa Chancellor's Award <i>President and Cabinet Office</i> NUST overall best graduating male student for the class of 2023

2023	Vice Chancellor's Award <i>National University of Science and Technology</i> Overall best graduating student in the department of Operations Research and Statistics
2023	Moonlight Award for the Best Graduating Student <i>Moonlight Zimbabwe</i> Overall best graduating student in the Faculty of Applied Sciences
2021	Nust Book Prize <i>National University of Science and Technology</i> Best student in the department 2021 and 2023 calendar years

Masters Project

03/2025 – 06/2025	Assessing the ability of Large Language Models to solve sequential decision making problems <i>Assess and characterise the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to solve sequential decision-making problems, with a focus on the Multi-Armed Bandit (MAB) problem.</i> Supervisor: Prof Audrey Durand (Université Laval, Canada)
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Workshops and Certificates

06/2025 – 08/2025 Sendai, Japan	Key relay protocol for quantum key distribution The Research in Industrial Projects for Students (RIPS) program has been held at the Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics (IPAM) of the UCLA, AIMR at Tohoku University in Sendai launched the g-RIPS-Sendai program in collaboration with IPAM, targeting graduate-level students in mathematical science and related disciplines.
Cape Town, South Africa	Africa Scientifique Workshop <i>Science Communication skills</i>

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

• Research	• Machine Learning Models	• Data Science
• Quantitative Risk Analysis	• IFRS9 Models Auditing	• Credit Control
• Power BI, R, SPSS, MS Office	• Monitoring and Evaluation	

Software

Python Modular Programming	R Studio
PowerBI Dashboards and Analysis	Microsoft Tools Excel, PowerPoint, etc
Macaulay2 Cyclone (Algebraic systems biology)	Git/ Github https://github.com/Donniezvadah

Leadership Experience

2024 – present Cape Town, South Africa	AIMS South Africa <i>MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Student Representative</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars and Mastercard Foundation team • Organise meetings • Reporting • Lead in giving back to the community sessions
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2024 – present Cape Town, South Africa	AIMS South Africa House of Science - outreach programme <i>Tutoring Lead</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the tutoring sessions for school children • Plan and schedule the tutorial sessions • Mentor students
2022 – present Zimbabwe	NUST <i>Tutor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary tutoring for NUST students Mathematics students • Projects guidance

References

Prof Karin-Therese Howell, *Academic Director*, African Institute of Mathematical Sciences South Africa
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Dr Mpfareleni Rejoyce Gavhi, *Researcher & House of Science Manager*,
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences South Africa
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Dr Precious Mdlongwa, *Senior Lecturer*, NUST
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