

# Sam Blundell

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## Education

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**MPhil Economics**, University of Oxford (Linacre College) Sep. 2024 – Jun. 2026

- **Thesis (Supervisor: Prof. Dimitrios Tsomocos):**

- Developing a small open-economy reduced-form model of sovereign default with endogenous import-based banking frictions to better capture empirical facts and moments in emerging markets.
- Engineered dynamic programming-based numerical simulations in Python, calibrating moments to a panel of emerging market economies.

- **Relevant Modules:**

- **International Macro & Finance:** Modeled sovereign default risk and real exchange rate dynamics in emerging markets, analyzing the impact of capital controls and macro shocks on debt sustainability.
- **Financial Economics (I & II):** Developed knowledge of advanced topics in asset pricing and corporate finance, including firm financing and capital structure and incomplete asset markets.
- **Empirical Research Methods:** Built a reproducible data pipeline in R to replicate Medicaid expansion study; automated data cleaning for multi-source datasets and executed DiD analysis.

**BSc Economics with Study Abroad**, University of Bristol Sep. 2019 – Jun. 2023

- **Awarded Deaton Prize** for best dissertation in Economics. Graduated with First Class Honours.
- **Dissertation "Herding in Chinese Equity Markets":** Applied Newey-West regressions to financial data and policy indices, finding that lockdown announcements reduced herding behavior and stabilized markets during COVID-19.
- **Study Year Abroad** at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, including year-long Mandarin course.

## Experience

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**Research Assistant for Prof. Dimitrios Tsomocos**, Saïd Business School, LSE May – Oct 2025

- Constructed a novel database of IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis and macro-financial data covering 191 countries over 20 years.
- Engineered a reproducible data pipeline in Python (using OCR, Pandas) to scrape, clean, and structure data from a range of unstructured PDF reports.
- Decomposed forecast errors to identify systematic bias in sovereign risk assessments, directly contributing to research on debt sustainability and policy effectiveness.

**Research Intern**, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, University of Bristol May – Aug. 2022

- Presented economic policy research for Parliamentary-debate on the implications of Chinese development assistance and capital market policy for British foreign policy.
- Delivered presentation on key policy implications on the complementary relationship between RMB internationalization and "Belt-and-Road" policy to department academics.

**Spring Intern**, HSBC London Apr. 2021

- Built fundamental equity valuation models in Excel, gaining practical exposure to industry asset pricing.

## Technical Skills

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- *Proficient:* R (econometrics, data cleaning/visualisation), Python (pandas, NumPy, scikitlearn), Excel.
- *Intermediate:* MATLAB, Dynare, Stata, LaTeX.
- *Basic:* Bloomberg (Bloomberg Market Concepts certified), Julia, Git.

## Leadership & Activities

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- **Competitor, World Econometrics Games (Apr. 2026):** Selected as one of four graduate students to represent Oxford in Amsterdam, based on capabilities in econometrics and machine learning.
- **Scholarship Student (2025-26):** Awarded Linacre College scholarship for Japanese Fast-Track Language Course.
- **Mentor, Zero Gravity: (2022-23)** Mentored prospective undergraduates; supported successful applications to top-tier programs (LSE, Warwick).