

Sam Blundell

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Education

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

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

- *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

- **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).