

Ben Hutchins

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Profile

A second year PhD student in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading, exploring potential applications of decadal predictions for the energy-sector. Currently working on combining a large ensemble of dynamical predictions with known statistical relationships to create skillful decadal predictions for energy-sector relevant variables over Europe.

Education

University of Reading

Sept 2023 – Present

PhD Student (Department of Meteorology)

Project title: Decadal predictions for the energy-sector.

MSci modules include: Atmospheric Physics, Numerical Modelling, Fluid Dynamics, Climate Services and Impact Modelling.

Lancaster University

Sept 2018 – June 2022

MSci Hons Natural Sciences (Study Abroad)

Projected first class

Relevant modules include: Atmosphere Weather and Climate, Geoinformatics, Experimental Design and Analysis, Environmental Aspects of Renewable Energy, and Global Change and the Earth System.

Oregon State University

Sept 2020 – June 2021

Study Abroad Placement

GPA: 4.0 ('Honour Roll')

Relevant courses include: Climate Modelling, Climate Data Analysis, Meteorology, Climate Physics, Oceanography, Biogeochemical cycles, and Mesoscale Meteorology.

Bradfield College

Sept 2013 – June 2018

A levels: Maths (A), Biology (A), History (A).

GCSEs: 8 A*, 2 A.

Experience

Independent Consultant, Yordas Group

July 2021 – October 2022

- Data-intensive role, involving the extraction of regulatory chemical data into the Yordas Hive database through spreadsheet integration.
- Developed proficiency in scripting documents which summarise complex regulatory legislation from across the world.
- Collaborated with the data science team to create new data extraction techniques that increase the efficiency of substance integration into the Hive database.

Lancaster Environment Centre, Hazelrigg Field Station Volunteer

Sept 2019 – Present

- Trained meteorological volunteer to collect observational data for the Met Office.
- Experienced and confident in collecting surface observational data from a range of meteorological instruments
- Developed proficiency in logging observational data, in both digital and analogue (weather cards) form.

National Citizen Service (NCS) Trust, Catch 22, Team Mentor

Summer 2019, Summer 2021

- Facilitated a wide range of activities over a summer programme, including two residential weeks, for a group of young people.

- Oversaw the development of various skills such as public speaking, project planning and cooperation for all members of the team.
- Developed effective communication skills, as well as the ability to adapt activities to ensure that they are inclusive and appropriate for all young people.

Lancaster Environment Centre, Digital Content Ambassador

Nov 2019 – September 2021

- Oversaw the design and production of posts documenting the application process for studying abroad.
- Conducted interviews with university academics and presented the highlights of these interviews on social media channels.
- Key skills developed include proficiency with communicating through digital media tools, the ability to collate and streamline information and assurance in conducting an effective interview.

Bradfield College Enterprises, Casual Lifeguard

Nov 2016 – Dec 2019

- Trained and worked as a qualified NPLQ lifeguard for over three years.
- Gained experience in the poolside role as a lifeguard as well as in the more practical area of maintaining a sports complex.
- Developed interpersonal skills through working as a representative of the sports complex and wider college, acting as front of house on reception.

Relevant Skills

- **Data Management:** Strong data science skills developed through work as an Independent Consultant at Yordas Group. Developed systematic processes and techniques for extracting and working with large datasets.
- **Programming:** Experience using Python as a tool for climate science through my PhD studies, as well as UNIX applications.
- **Data analysis:** Confident using Python, Matlab, SPSS and Excel to conduct statistical analysis of climate and meteorological data.
- **Communication:** Excellent oral communication developed through work as a LEC Digital Content Ambassador and NCS Team Leader. Evidence of sophisticated written communication through academic writing for a broad range of scientific disciplines as a Natural Scientist.
- **Problem Solving:** Experience working with the data science team at Yordas Group to develop efficient processes and systems to regularly solve issues with data extraction and integration.
- **Team player:** Inspired and motivated a team of thirteen young people to achieve their National Citizen Service programme.

Other skills and interests

- **Lancaster Award:** Received an ‘excellent’ grade Gold Lancaster Award for my participation in extracurricular activities at Lancaster University.
- **Swimming and Water Polo:** As a former national level swimmer, I moved on to play water polo at university and played against other universities as a part of the men’s performance team in the BUCS Northern Leagues.
- **Climbing:** I enjoy bouldering and sport climbing, both indoor and outdoors. I have recently started developing my skills in traditional climbing.
- **Hiking:** One of the activities I enjoy most is walking in remote mountainous regions: whether that be on Dartmoor or in the backcountry of the Oregon Cascades.

References available upon request