

# Ben Hutchins

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## Profile

I am a third year PhD student in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading looking into the potential applications of decadal predictions for the energy-sector. I work part-time as a Science Engagement Fellow for the Royal Meteorological Society, where we bring together professionals, policy makers, and academics to discuss the biggest weather and climate issues facing the energy sector.

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## Education

### University of Reading

Sept 2022 – 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)

First class (76.6%)

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.

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## Experience

### Science Engagement Fellow (Energy), Royal Meteorological Society

June 2024 – Present

- Creating an engagement strategy for the Royal Meteorological Society's Energy Special Interest Group, uniting professionals, policymakers, and academics to address key energy sector challenges.
- Utilising briefing papers, events, and partnerships for effective engagement.

### 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.

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**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, 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.

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**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.
- **Running:** My current focus is on ultra-distance running, and I am eager to develop my skills further after placing second in the 2024 East Devon Round Half.

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**References available upon request**