

Tom Saunders

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A datajournalist with a knack for finding stories in data and competency in a wide array of programming languages.

Education and Qualifications

Sept 2014 – June 2016

Rugby School

A level: History (A*), Economics(A)

Pre-U: Mathematics (D2 Equivalent A* at A level), Further Mathematics (D3 Equivalent A at A level)

Sept 2017 – 2020

Durham University

History BA Hons

First Class (Honours)

I am currently studying a Masters in Financial Journalism at City University.

Extra-Curricular

Durham Palatinate Newspaper, Deputy Editor (News)

As the Deputy News Editor for the student newspaper, I was involved in a series of important breaking stories. This included an exclusive from [Dominic Cummings](#) and an investigation into [BAME underrepresentation](#) in academia, sourced from confidential documents that I uncovered.

The Monocle Newspaper, Founder and Editor-in-Chief

I co-founded and edited Durham's first fully independent student newspaper. Within a month of our launch, we won **Best Development** at the Northern Region Student Publication Awards and we were nominated for **Best Newcomer Publication** and **Best Overall Digital Media** at the National Student Publication Awards. I was also personally nominated for **Best Science/Technology article** for my interview with [Samy Bengio](#), a founder of modern AI.

YPP and Van Mildert Duck

I volunteered with the Young Person's Project working closely with Year 10 pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds at local schools in the North East. This included school visits and a week-long residential at Van Mildert College over Easter. I was also a college representative of the University Charities Committee.

Skills

- I am an entirely self-taught programmer with experience in data-manipulation with R and Python and data-visualisation with D3js, Plotly, Gephi and ggplot. I also am a competent web developer with knowledge of HTML, CSS (+ Bootstrap), jQuery, JavaScript, PHP and MySQL.
- I also have experience in modelling social data with Stan + R and a secure understanding of machine learning tools such as Fasttext and TensorFlow.
- I can employ a wide array of OSINT techniques to uncover important information and datasets.
- I have conversational level Spanish after spending 3 months teaching English in Chile between 2016 and 2017.

Work Experience

I have work experience organised with The Telegraph home desk, Inews and The Times interactive desk which have been postponed due to Covid-19.

MoneyWeek Magazine

December 2020

I spent two weeks at MoneyWeek magazine where I designed their annual Christmas quiz. I also wrote profiles on the entrepreneurs Anne Boden and Trinny London and I contributed to their *Money Talks* segment.

East Anglia Daily Times & Ipswich Star

December 2019

I spent a week at Archant Media doing court reporting and attending inquest hearings for both the EADT and Ipswich Star. I wrote articles based on press releases as well as an analysis of the youth vote at the election which featured in print and online for both papers.

Assistant Fundraiser, European Movement

June – August 2019

I worked directly with the Treasurer of the European Movement, Paul Lomas, to solicit donations from high-value targets. This usually involved using OSINT to find private emails and contact information. I also used my web design skills to develop integrated fundraising websites for the European Movement.