

# Tom Saunders

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## Work

### The Times - Business Reporter [All Articles]

**October 2024 - Present**

I am a reporter on the business desk at The Times, specialising in trade. I have written a series of agenda-setting exclusives while covering the beat:

- I published an investigation into a [Chinese state-owned semiconductor company based in Glasgow](#), which had sold microchips that had ended up in Russian tanks. Following the article, the government used the National Security Act to [force China to divest its stake](#) – only the third time the act has been used in that manner in its history.
- That article, along with two property-based articles – regarding [Russian investment in the UK](#) and [local council debt](#) – led me to win **MHP's 30 under 30 Gold Award for business journalism** last year, the highest award available in the category. I also [interviewed the CEO of Raspberry Pi](#) about how the company has fought the flow of its products to Russia.
- Most recently, I led [The Times's submission to "Shadow Fleet Secrets"](#), a pan-Europe project which involved newsrooms across 13 countries identifying European shipping companies which had sold oil tankers that later ended up in Russia's shadow fleet.

### The Times - Graduate Scheme (Business)

**October 2022 - October 2024**

During my two years on the graduate scheme, which mainly involved writing for the business desk as well as rotations in other departments around The Times, I reported from the Migrant camps in Calais, the Sycamore Gap and elsewhere. I also published a number of important stories, including:

- An [investigation into the FCA](#), which had approved individuals for regulated work who had been banned from acting as company directors for offences ranging from pension fraud to tax evasion.
- An article revealing [how a "dudeist" priest was behind 800 rogue fillings on Companies House](#) – initially [suspected by senior executives](#) to be the product of a sophisticated hack or fraud.
- Features on topics such as [deepfake impersonations of tech CEOs](#) and the [government's Bitcoin holdings](#).

### The i - Datajournalist [All Articles]

**June 2021 - October 2022**

I was the first data journalist employed by the i. In my time at the paper, I wrote features and analysis on a variety of topics and broke a series of exclusives that landed me five front pages in the year that I worked at the paper. These included:

- A nomination for a **Drum award for best investigation** along with other members of the newspaper for our investigation into the [Channel Tragedy](#).
- Data-driven features on [Russian misinformation on Twitter](#) and [Marine Le Pen's victory](#) in the majority Muslim island of Mayotte.
- Exclusives on [record numbers of NHS staff quitting the service](#), [unvaccinated care home staff](#) and usage of the [NHS track and trace app](#), all of which were front page stories.

## Awards and nominations

- **MHP's 30 under 30 Gold Award - Business Journalism (2024)** – I won a national award for journalists under the age of 30 for my work on local council debt and UK business links with Russia.
- **Drum Award for Best Investigation Nomination (2022)** – I was nominated for a national award for best investigation as part of my work analysing traffic in the English Channel during the Channel tragedy.
- **SPA Regionals: Best Development | SPA Nationals: Best Newcomer Publication, Best Overall Digital Media and Best Science/Technology article Nominations (2019)** – I founded an online-only student newspaper at university, which won one regional student media award and was nominated for two national awards. I was also nominated for best article in the science and technology category.

## Education and skills

**Financial Journalism MA (Merit)**

City University

September 2020 – July 2021

**History BA (First Class Honours)**

Durham University

September 2017 – 2020

**A Level: History (A\*), Maths (A\*), Economics (A), Further Maths (A)**

September 2014 – June 2016

I am a skilled, self-taught programmer with comprehensive knowledge of Python, R and Javascript and expertise in geospatial and data analysis. While at university, I founded The Monocle newspaper. It won one award at the Student Publication Awards and was nominated for two others.