

# Tao MA

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## Education

<b>London School of Economics and Political Science</b> <i>Ph.D. Candidate in Statistics (Data Science Group)</i>	<b>Sep 2021 – Sep 2025</b> <i>London</i>
<b>New York University   Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences</b> <i>Master of Science in Mathematics</i> GPA 3.81/4.00 (Top 5)   Passed the Ph.D. Written Qualification Exam	<b>Sep 2016 – Aug 2018</b> <i>New York</i>
<b>Hong Kong Baptist University</b> <i>Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Operations Research (First Class Honors)</i> GPA 3.87/4.00 (Rank 1st in 61 graduates in the Math Department)	<b>Sep 2012 – Aug 2016</b> <i>Hong Kong</i>

## Relevant Coursework

Reinforcement Learning, Game Theory, Stochastic Analysis, Survival Analysis, Nonparametric Statistics, Time Series, Categorical Data, Numerical Methods, Linear Programming, Topology, Differential Equations, Real/Complex/Functional Analysis, Information Theory, Mathematical Foundations of Computing, Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning

## Research

- Ma, T., Yang, X., & Szabó, Z. (2024). To Switch or not to Switch? Balanced Policy Switching in Offline Reinforcement Learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.01837. 📄
- Ma, T., & Yang, X. (2024). A Framework for Policy Evaluation Enhancement by Diffusion Models. Tiny Papers **ICLR**. (Invite to present) 📄
- Ma, T., Zhu, J., Cai, H., Qi, Z., Chen, Y., Shi, C., & Laber, E. B. (2023+). Sequential Knockoffs for Variable Selection in Reinforcement Learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.14281. (SEEK) 📄

## Selected Achievements

• LSE Class Teacher Award	2022 – 2023
• LSE PhD Studentship (the highest honor for graduate students)	2021 – 2025
• Best Teaching Assistant Award (HKUST)	2019 – 2020
• HKSAR Government Scholarship (the highest honor for undergraduates in HK)	2013 – 2016
• Outstanding Student Award (top 7/4134, by The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong)	2015 – 2016
• Scholastic Award	2015 – 2016
• APEC Scholarship (by Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation)	2014 – 2016
• Best Debater prize at The World Mandarin Debating Championship, HK	2015 – 2016
• Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2014 – 2015
• Mr. Li Men Jan Prize in Mathematics	2014 – 2015
• Department of Mathematics Outstanding Academic Performance Award	2013 – 2014
• Sir Tseng Chi Lu Chloarship	2013 – 2014
• President's Honour Roll	2012 – 2016

## Academic Service

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**International Conference on Learning Representations** **2025**  
*Reviewer* *Singapore*

**Neural Information Processing Systems** **2024**  
*Reviewer* *Vancouver*

### London School of Economics and Political Science

*Committee member* *London*  
• Department Review Representative **2024**  
• Department Teaching Committee **2023 – Present**  
• Department Moving Plan Committee **2023 – Present**

## Experience

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**London School of Economics and Political Science** **Sep 2021 – Present**  
*Class Teacher* *London*

- Undergraduate courses:  
ST101 Programming for Data Science (Python),  
ST107 Quantitative Methods,  
ST102/109/110 Elementary Statistical Theory
- Graduate courses:  
ST445 Managing & Visualizing Data (Python)

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology** **Oct 2018 – Nov 2019**  
*Research Assistant* *Hong Kong*

**New York University** **Sep 2017 – Dec 2017**  
*Recitation Leader* *New York*

- MATH-UA 211 Mathematics for Economics

**Hong Kong Baptist University** **Sep 2012 – Jun 2016**  
*President, Coach – Mandarin Debate Team* *Hong Kong*

- Gave interviews to applicants and organized weekly training for team members on debate skills
- Kept in touch with other universities and won prizes in competitions worldwide

**Bank of China** **Dec 2014 – Jan 2015**  
*Internship – Corporate Banking and Financial Institute* *Hong Kong*

**Professional Swimming** **2004 – 2009**  
*Individual Medley (200 meters), breaststroke (100 meters), butterfly stroke (100 meters)* *Beijing*

## Skills & Others

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**Programming languages:** Python, R, SAS, MATLAB, LaTeX, HTML/CSS

**Tools:** Jupyter Notebook, VS Code, Google Cloud Platform, Linux, Github, Wordpress

**Language:** Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Cantonese (fluent)

**Interests:** Swimming, gym fitness, basketball, calligraphy and music

**Games:** Poker, Mahjong, Pokémon, Mario, Kirby, Dragon Ball, NBA 2K, Asphalt, FIFA, Horizon, GTA, Zelda and a lot of others