

Donald Zvada

PhD Student in Statistics | Data Scientist | Statistician & Researcher | Quant

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Profile

Donald Zvada is a data-driven Analyst and Data Scientist with a Master's in Mathematical Sciences from AIMS and Stellenbosch University, and a Bachelor's Honours in Operations Research and Statistics from NUST, Zimbabwe. His work blends advanced analytics, statistical modelling, and machine learning to solve real-world problems, with a recent research focus on how Large Language Models tackle sequential decision-making. Donald is passionate about using data to improve workforce strategies, organisational efficiency, and business outcomes.

Education

PhD Candidate, Trinity College Dublin 09/2025 – Present | Dublin, Ireland
T-DIET - Developing novel statistical methods for the analysis of longitudinal dietary patterns and their association with health outcomes

Msc, Mathematical Sciences, 09/2024 – 07/2025
AIMS (South Africa) , Stellenbosch University Capetown, South Africa
Pure Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, ML

Bsc Hons in Operations Research and Statistics, 2019 – 2023 | Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
National University of Science and Technology
1st Division (Overall Best graduating male student, class of 2023)

High School, Centenary High School 2017 – 2018
Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Economics & Geography

Professional Experience

Quantitative Risk Analyst, EY Zimbabwe 12/2023 – 08/2024 | Harare, Zimbabwe
Credit risk model development and validation for clients to ensure they are compliant with IFRS 9 Standard.
PD, LGD, EAD & MEV models
-IFRS9 Model Validation and review support on audit assignments
-Development, implementation or review of IFRS 9 frameworks/systems/tools.

Intern, EcoCash Holding 2021 – 2022 | Harare, Zimbabwe
Reporting Analyst, Product Solutions and Operations management
Preparation reports, Product testing (dev environment ~beta tests), scheduling, data analysis, competitor analysis ,meetings presentations, sharing quotations, customer queries, data entry,data cleaning, data analysis,data exploration ~visualizations (Microsoft Excel and PowerBI)

Doctoral Researcher, Trinity College Dublin
T-DIET - Developing novel statistical methods for the analysis of longitudinal dietary patterns and their association with health outcomes

Masters Project

Assessing the ability of Large Language Models to solve sequential decision making problems, *Assess and characterise the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to solve sequential decision-making problems, with a focus on the Multi-Armed Bandit (MAB) problem.*

03/2025 – 06/2025

Supervisor: Prof Audrey Durand (Université Laval, Canada)- **Distinction**

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Research
- Machine Learning Models
- Data Science
- Quantitative Risk Analysis
- IFRS9 Models Auditing
- Credit Control
- Power BI, R, SPSS, MS Office
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Workshops and Certificates

Key relay protocol for quantum key distribution

06/2025 – 08/2025 | Sendai, Japan

The Research in Industrial Projects for Students (RIPS) program has been held at the Institute for Pure & Applied Mathematics (IPAM) of the UCLA, AIMR at Tohoku University in Sendai launched the g-RIPS-Sendai program in collaboration with IPAM, targeting graduate-level students in mathematical science and related disciplines.

Africa Scientifique Workshop, *Science Communication skills*

Cape Town, South Africa

Awards

PhD Scholarship,

2025

Research Ireland (Frontiers for the Future Programme)

MasterCard Foundation Scholarship, *MasterCard Foundation*

09/2024

Fully sponsored scholarship for the Masters in Mathematical Sciences.

Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa Chancellor's Award,

2023

President and Cabinet Office

NUST **overall best** 🏆 graduating male student for the class of 2023

Vice Chancellor's Award,

2023

National University of Science and Technology

Overall best graduating student in the department of Operations Research and Statistics

Moonlight Award for the Best Graduating Student,

2023

Moonlight Zimbabwe

Overall best graduating student in the Faculty of Applied Sciences

Nust Book Prize, *National University of Science and Technology*

2023

Best Student in the department 2023-year calendar

Nust Book Prize, *National University of Science and Technology*

2021

Best student in the department 2021 and 2023 calendar years

Software

Python

Modular Programming

PowerBI

Dashboards and Analysis

Macaulay2

Cyclone (Algebraic systems biology)

R Studio

Microsoft Tools

Excel, PowerPoint, etc

Git/ Github

<https://github.com/Donniezvadah> 

Academy for PhD Training in Statistics

04/2026 – 07/2026 | United Kingdom

- **High-Dimensional Statistics** - April 2026 (**Nottingham University**)
- **Statistical Modelling** - April 2026 (**Nottingham University**)
- **Applied Stochastic Processes** - July 2026 (**St Andrews**)
- **Computer Intensive Statistics** - July 2026 (**St Andrews**)

PhD Preparatory Coursework

09/2025 – 12/2026 | Trinity College Dublin

- **RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND IMPACT IN AN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP ERA**- Pass
- **RESEARCH METHODS (MSC / PHD BY RESEARCH)**- Ongoing
- **TEACHING AND SUPPORTING LEARNING FOR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS** -Pass

Leadership Experience

AIMS South Africa,

2024 – 08/2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Student Representative

- Work closely with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars and Mastercard Foundation team
- Organise meetings
- Reporting
- Lead in giving back to the community sessions

AIMS South Africa House of Science - outreach programme,

2024 – 08/2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

Tutoring Lead

- Lead the tutoring sessions for school children
- Plan and schedule the tutorial sessions
- Mentor students

NUST, Tutor

2022 – present | Zimbabwe

- Voluntary tutoring for NUST students Mathematics students
- Projects guidance

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant and Demonstrator, Courses

11/2025 – Present | Trinity College Dublin

- **Time Series Analysis** - Lab sessions using RStudio
- **ENGINEERING PRACTICE 2** - Grading Assignments and assisting students in report writing and presentations.

- **MATHEMATICS II** - Mathematical Logic for computer science
- **MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS**- Lab sessions using RStudio

Voluntary Work

IndabaX Zimbabwe, *Organiser*

01/2025 – Present | Harare, Zimbabwe

Deep Learning IndabaX @ Zimbabwe creates a vibrant space where local researchers, students, and practitioners engage with cutting-edge AI research

International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), *Trainer*

01/2026 – Present | Harare, Zimbabwe

Train students prepare to compete at International and Continental contests of the **International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI)** @ 2026.

References

Prof Silvia D'Angelo, *PhD Supervisor*, TCD

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Dr Mpfareleni Rejoyce Gavhi, *Researcher & House of Science Manager*,

African Institute for Mathematical Sciences South Africa

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Prof Precious Mdlongwa, *Department Chair in Statistics*, NUST

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