

Donald Zvada

Data Scientist | Data Analyst | Statistician & Researcher

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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.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EY Zimbabwe, Quantitative Risk Analyst 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.

EcoCash Holding, Intern 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)

Trinity College Dublin, Doctoral Researcher
T-DIET - Developing novel statistical methods for the analysis of longitudinal dietary patterns and their association with health 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, AIMS (South Africa), Stellenbosch University 09/2024 – 07/2025 | Capetown, South Africa
Pure Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, ML

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

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

AWARDS

PhD Scholarship, Research Ireland (Frontiers for the Future Programme) 2025

MasterCard Foundation Scholarship, MasterCard Foundation 09/2024
Fully sponsored scholarship for the Masters in Mathematical Sciences.

Emmerson Dambudzo Mwangagwa Chancellor's Award, President and Cabinet Office 2023
NUST overall best [🏆] graduating male student for the class of 2023

Vice Chancellor's Award, National University of Science and Technology 2023
Overall best graduating student in the department of Operations Research and Statistics

Moonlight Award for the Best Graduating Student, Moonlight Zimbabwe 2023
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

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**

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 Scientific Workshop, Science Communication skills Cape Town, South Africa

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

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> 

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

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

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**)

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.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

AIMS South Africa, *MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Student Representative*

2024 – 08/2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

- 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, *Tutoring Lead*

2024 – 08/2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

- 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

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

rejoyce@aims.ac.za

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

precious.mdlongwa@nust.ac.zw, +263712747990