



Kieran Blackwell

JUNIOR DATA SCIENTIST

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Data Science MSc graduate from the University of Edinburgh with a background in mathematics and statistics. Completed a 3 month internship at **Skyscanner**, building a recommendation model that improved click-through rate by **7.3%**. Published a workshop paper on time-series forecasting. Maintains **8 public GitHub repositories** with reproducible end-to-end analyses in Python and R.

EDUCATION

MSc Data Science in Data Science

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Sep 2024 – Sep 2025

Distinction (overall average **74%**). Dissertation on *transformer-based approaches to energy demand forecasting* received **78%** and was co-authored as a workshop paper.

- Relevant modules: Machine Learning, Statistical Learning, Natural Language Processing, Bayesian Methods, Data Mining

BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Statistics in Mathematics and Statistics

University of Warwick, Coventry
Sep 2021 – Jun 2024

First Class Honours (1st, **71% average**).

SKILLS

- Python (pandas, scikit-learn, XGBoost)
- R (tidyverse, ggplot2)
- SQL (PostgreSQL, BigQuery)
- PySpark & Databricks
- TensorFlow & PyTorch
- Jupyter Notebooks
- Statistical Modelling & Hypothesis Testing
- A/B Testing & Experimentation
- Data Visualisation (matplotlib, seaborn, Plotly)
- Git & GitHub
- Docker (Containerised Pipelines)
- LaTeX (Academic Writing)

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Machine Learning – Specialty

Amazon Web Services
Aug 2025 – Aug 2028

Databricks Certified Data Engineer Associate

Databricks
Apr 2025 – Apr 2027

LANGUAGES

- English - Native

REFERENCES

Dr Anna Chen

Senior Data Scientist, Skyscanner
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EXPERIENCE

Data Science Intern, Skyscanner, Edinburgh

Jun 2025 – Sep 2025

Three-month internship in the recommendations team, working with user search and booking data.

- Built a **gradient boosted model** (XGBoost) for destination recommendations that improved click-through rate by **7.3%** in an A/B test with 120,000 users
- Processed and cleaned a dataset of **4.2 million search queries** using PySpark on Databricks
- Presented findings to the product team in a **30 minute demo**, resulting in the model being scheduled for production deployment
- Documented the full pipeline in a **reproducible Jupyter notebook** with automated tests

Research Assistant (Part-time), University of Edinburgh, School of Informatics, Edinburgh

Jan 2025 – May 2025

Part-time research assistant working with a professor on time-series forecasting for energy demand.

- Co-authored a workshop paper on **transformer-based time-series forecasting** presented at the ECML-PKDD 2025 workshop
- Trained and evaluated **5 model architectures** (LSTM, GRU, Temporal Fusion Transformer, Prophet, ARIMA) on 3 years of UK National Grid data

PROJECTS

Destination Recommendation Model (Skyscanner Internship)

Jun 2025 – Sep 2025

Built an XGBoost model to recommend travel destinations based on user search history and seasonal trends.

- Trained on **4.2 million search queries** with 23 engineered features
- Achieved a **7.3% improvement in click-through rate** in a live A/B test with 120,000 users
- Model latency of **45ms per prediction**, within the team's 100ms SLA

Energy Demand Forecasting (MSc Dissertation)

Mar 2025 – Aug 2025

Compared transformer-based and traditional approaches to forecasting UK electricity demand.

- Evaluated **5 model architectures** on 3 years of National Grid data (1.1 million data points)
- Temporal Fusion Transformer achieved **RMSE of 1,230 MW**, outperforming Prophet by 18%
- Co-authored as a workshop paper at **ECML-PKDD 2025**

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Organiser – Edinburgh Data Science Meetup

Jan 2025 – Sep 2025

Co-organised a monthly meetup for data professionals in Edinburgh. Hosted **6 events** with speakers from Skyscanner, FanDuel, and Baillie Gifford. Average attendance of **35 people**.

Teaching Assistant – University of Edinburgh

Jan 2025 – May 2025

TA for the undergraduate Introduction to Data Science module. Ran lab sessions for **40 students** and marked 120 coursework submissions.