

Conor Linkston

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EDUCATION

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Sep 2024 – Jun 2028

BSc (Hons) Mathematics, Statistics and Finance

Selected results: Mathematical and Statistical Computing 97 · Economics and Business Analysis 74 · Essential Statistics 73

Year 3 modules: Advanced Corporate Finance and Financial Markets · Treasury Management and Derivatives · Numerical Analysis · Applied Linear Algebra

The James Young High School

2018 – 2024

Advanced Higher: Mathematics (B). Highers: Mathematics (A), Business Management (B), English (B), Physics (B), Biology (B). National 5s: 6 at A–B.

EXPERIENCE

Balfour Beatty plc — Finance Work Experience, Glasgow

Jul 2026

- Completed a counterparty credit assessment of prospective subcontractors: extracted data from published accounts, calculated liquidity, leverage and profitability ratios (acid test, cash interest cover, gearing, ROCE, operating margin, net worth) and combined these with Dun & Bradstreet credit data to build scored comparative profiles of 5 companies for non-finance stakeholders, informing the final contractor selection
- Placement scoped directly with the Scotland Finance Director. Worked through the firm's IRR based lease versus buy analysis, including staggering vehicle lease start dates to spread maintenance costs and smooth P&L; also covered infrastructure investment modelling at Balfour Beatty Investments and how divisional reporting consolidates to group and reaches the market

AmplifyME — Summer Analyst Training Course, London

Aug 2026 – Sep 2026

- **1st and 2nd of 65** across two hedge fund simulation rounds, and 3rd of 67 in a sales and trading simulation run as a market making hedge fund, with a P&L above ten times that of 4th place.
- **1st of 66 for my Valuation Model in the 24 Hour M&A Challenge:** Fastest completion and getting 100% on accuracy.
- **Best stock pitch of the cohort:** equity pitch on Nike selected as the strongest presented, delivered to the full group and defended under questioning; subsequently led a breakout team that developed it further, placing 2nd

TK Maxx — Sales Assistant — Stock Processing and Deliveries, Glasgow

Oct 2023 – Present

- Key holder, managed weekend delivery operations; opened store at 06:00 and processed incoming stock to the shop floor
- Reconciled delivery paperwork with drivers, verifying £50,000-£100,000 worth of inbound stock against manifests and documenting returns of equipment
- Trained new staff in stock processing and supervised charity work experience placements. Maintained three years of continuous employment alongside full time study, including exam periods

PROJECTS

Robust Portfolio Optimisation Engine

Python · github.com/conor8568/robust-portfolio-optimisation

- Building a portfolio construction engine treating estimation error as the central problem: Michaud resampled efficiency, Ledoit Wolf covariance shrinkage, and walk forward backtesting with turnover and concentration metrics. Found naive equal weight narrowly matched the optimised methods on Sharpe (0.643 vs 0.636), consistent with the literature that correcting estimation error alone does not reliably beat 1/N

FTSE Equity Portfolio Analysis

R · github.com/conor8568/ftse-portfolio-analysis

- Pulled and cleaned historic market data, computed log returns, and compared minimum variance and equal weight allocations against the index over ten years. Minimum variance delivered lower volatility than both, though diversification benefits deteriorated sharply during stress periods

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Societies — Strathclyde Trading Society, Strathclyde Finance & Accounting Society

Edinburgh Marathon — completed May 2026, training alongside full time study through semester and exams

Tennis — ten years' experience, play regularly with the University of Strathclyde team

Volunteering — Alzheimer's Society 26.2 mile hike (£260 raised); Team Jak charity football match (£500+ raised)

Chess — played since childhood, taught by my dad; still play regularly. Beat a 1600 Elo rated engine after many attempts

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Technical Skills — Python (pandas, NumPy, SciPy) · R (Tidyverse, Tidyquant) · SQL · Excel (Power Query) · Git / GitHub · MATLAB · AI Workflows

Credentials — Global Finalist, **top 10% Globally of thousands:** CFA Institute x AmplifyME Asset management. Level 6 LIBF Diploma in Applied Finance.