

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Thomas Lees

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

A PhD student enrolled at the University of Oxford. I am looking at the applications of Earth Observation (EO) and machine learning to study drought characteristics in East Africa. I have a strong focus on impactful research and enjoy developing technical skills. Formerly a member of the Great Britain Modern Pentathlon Team and multiple international medal winner.

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/09/2017–Present

DPhil in Environmental Science

University of Oxford, Oxford (United Kingdom)

- Using satellite derived data and machine learning to characterise droughts in East Africa.
- Working with Python, R, Shell Scripts and a suite of climate and EO related data-processing tools.
- I am also involved in assisting with teaching for Undergraduate Students, particularly on research skills such as EO and Python for climate science.
- I enjoy working with Python and am constantly focused on improving my programming skills by working with new methods, new frameworks and new packages.
- Upcoming publications on which I am co-author include:
 - A pan-African high resolution drought index dataset, Peng et al.
 - Perspective: Potential of Artificial Intelligence to aid Climate Change Research and Solutions, Huntingford et al.

01/01/2007–01/06/2016

Great Britain Modern Pentathlon Team

UK Sport, Bath (United Kingdom)

- I was a member of the Great Britain Modern Pentathlon Team moving from the age-group Talent Programme (2007-2012) to the Podium Potential Programme (2012-2016).
- I spent the year of 2015 as a full-time athlete at the University of Bath training for the Rio Olympics. I ultimately finished as the 5th ranked athlete in Great Britain. I won a Senior International Medal (Bronze) at the Polish Cup.
- I won team and relay medals at Junior, Youth A and Youth B Europeans and World Championships.

01/06/2016–01/09/2016

Data Operations Internship

WaterSHED, Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

- A 3-month internship with the Business Intelligence Unit for a WASH sector NGO in Cambodia. I was awarded a scholarship by the Scott-Stone Family Foundation.
- I was working closely with other key stakeholders in the WASH sector, including the World Bank, the Government of Cambodia, WaterAid and UNICEF. My time culminated in a presentation to the Government meeting of WASH practitioners and stakeholders outlining the collaboration with Open Development Cambodia (ODC) and the potential as a locally-led data portal.

01/09/2016–31/01/2017

Data Analyst

Your Favourite Story, London (United Kingdom)

- I was on the analytics desk for a digital marketing agency, using Google Analytics and Adobe Analytics to track customer usage of the websites and to offer optimisations to improve customer

experience.

- I was responsible for delivering monthly reports to Mercedes Benz Australia and Massey-Ferguson. I rewrote the reports to run automatically in Tableau.
- I presented a piece of analysis to Mercedes Benz UK on multi-channel attribution. This was developed using a mixture of Python and Tableau.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/09/2012–01/06/2016

B.A. Geography

First Class B.A. with Honours

University of Oxford, Oxford (United Kingdom)

Bachelor's Degree in Geography.

- Christ Church Academic Scholarship.
- Double First - achieving a distinction in my Preliminary Examinations and a distinction in my Final Examinations.
- I achieved 80% in my dissertation looking at the Spatial Distribution of Food Poverty in Oxfordshire.
- Basic GIS, basic statistics and hypothesis testing, basic programming skills in JULIA.

06/01/2017–01/09/2017

Full Stack Web Developer Bootcamp

Le Wagon, London (United Kingdom)

- 9-week intensive coding bootcamp learning HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, JavaScript (ES6), JQuery, SQL, git, GitHub, Heroku and Ruby on Rails.
- Designed, implemented and shipped to production a Rails prototype of DataBall, for finding valuable bets online.

01/09/2005–01/06/2012

School

3 A*, 1 A for A-Level

Whitgift School, South Croydon (United Kingdom)

A-Level

- Geography - A*, History - A*, Biology - A*, Philosophy - A

GCSE:

- 10 A*, 1 A

PERSONAL SKILLS

Digital skills

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Independent user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Proficient user

Digital skills - Self-assessment grid

- Proficient user of Python, capable of working with large climate and EO datasets for my research.
- I enjoy using Python for statistical modelling of Football matches, and visualising data.
- I have worked with web-based technologies and have created my own websites.