

Ben Waltmann

ben.waltmann@ifs.org.uk • Institute for Fiscal Studies, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE

Employment

- 01/2019 – **Research Economist, Education and Skills, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London**
- Policy-relevant research in labour and education economics
 - Regular policy advisory, primarily for the Department for Education
 - Areas of specialization: Returns to education, higher education funding, school-to-work transitions, dynamic discrete choice models
- 10/2016 – 06/2018 **Lecturer, St Hugh's College und Balliol College, University of Oxford**
- Held sole responsibility for all Macroeconomics teaching and college examinations in Macroeconomics
 - Taught students at all levels of the undergraduate curriculum
 - Interviewed new students for admission

Education

- 10/2016 – **University of Oxford • DPhil in Economics**
Supervisors: James Duffy and Guido Ascari
Thesis Title: *Essays on Dynamic Estimation using Simulation Methods*
- 10/2014 – 06/2016 **University of Oxford • MPhil in Economics**
Thesis Title: *Quantifying the Effect of Downward Nominal Wage Rigidity on Employment in 14 OECD Countries*
- 09/2013 – 07/2014 **Peking University, Beijing, China**
Visiting student attending classes in Chinese Language and on the Chinese economy
- 10/2010 – 06/2013 **University of Oxford • BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)**
First Class (top 5%)

Scholarships and Grants

- 09/2018 – 10/2018 **ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Grant**
Full funding for a one month visit at the University of Pavia, Italy
- 05/2018 – 07/2018 **ESRC Placement Support Grant**
Full funding for a two month internship at the Ministry of Finance of Sri Lanka
- 10/2014 – 12/2018 **ESRC Studentship, University of Oxford**
Four years of full funding for MPhil and DPhil in Economics (2+2)
- 10/2014 – 12/2018 **Balliol Economics Scholarship, Balliol College, Oxford**
Awarded in conjunction with the ESRC Studentship
- 10/2014 – 09/2016 **Haniel Scholarship of the German National Academic Foundation**
Two years of full funding for a Master's degree in Economics (declined)
- 09/2013 – 08/2014 **China Scholarship of the German National Academic Foundation**
Full funding including preparatory language courses for one year in China
- 10/2010 – 06/2016 **General Scholarship of the German National Academic Foundation**
Living cost grant and summer schools for five years

IT Skills

Programming: R/RStudio, Stata, Julia, Matlab, C/C++

Other Software: Git, Atom/Juno, Eclipse, Dakota, Excel, LaTeX, Unix Shell

Languages

German (native), English (native level), Mandarin Chinese (advanced)

Publications

“Will universities need a bailout to survive the Covid-19 crisis?” IFS Briefing Note, 2020 (with Elaine Drayton)

- Media Coverage: Guardian, Financial Times, BBC News, Newsweek, Telegraph, Times and others

“The impact of undergraduate degrees on lifetime earnings: Evidence from the UK” Department for Education Policy Report, 2020 (with Jack Britton, Lorraine Dearden, and Laura van der Erve)

- Media Coverage: Guardian, Financial Times, BBC News, Telegraph, Times and others

“Higher Education funding: more change to come?”, IFS Briefing Note, 2019 (with Jack Britton and Laura van der Erve)

Forthcoming Work

“Who would benefit from reimbursing this year’s tuition fees?” IFS Briefing Note

“The earnings returns to postgraduate degrees in the UK” Department for Education Policy Report (with Jack Britton, Franz Buscha, Matt Dickson, Laura van der Erve, Anna Vignoles, Ian Walker and Yu Zhu)

“The returns to higher education by socio-economic group and ethnicity” Department for Education Policy Report (with Jack Britton and Lorraine Dearden)

“Does it pay to get good grades at university? The labour market returns to different degree classes” Department for Education Policy Report (with Jack Britton, Ian Walker and Yu Zhu)

Work in Progress

“Efficient likelihood simulation in discrete choice models with observed payoffs”

“The long-run impact of paying students to stay in school: Evidence from the UK” (with Jack Britton)

“Reliable estimation of discrete choice dynamic programming models with large state spaces” (with Jack Britton and Robert Sauer)

Seminar Presentations

2019 Department for Education, MANCEPT Workshop (Manchester), NORFACE Workshop (PSE), IFS, UCL

2018 Oxford

Refereeing

Oxford Economic Papers, Fiscal Studies, Nuffield Foundation