

Alex Oktay

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics , University of Pennsylvania	2024 – present
M.Phil. Economic Research , University of Cambridge	2021 – 2022
B.Sc. Economics , University of Lausanne	2018 – 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research fellow , Stanford University	2023 – 2024
Monetary policy analysis intern , Swiss National Bank	2022 – 2023
Research assistant , University of Cambridge	2022

PUBLICATIONS

Heterogeneity in the exchange rate pass-through to consumer prices: the Swiss franc appreciation of 2015, *Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics*, 2022

WORKING PAPERS

Does defensive gun use deter crime? (with John J. Donohue, Amy Zhang, and Matthew Benavides), *R&R Journal of Urban Economics*

Exchange rate shocks and equity prices: the role of currency denomination (with Romain Baeriswyl and Marc-Antoine Ramelet)

Beyond Bruen: Can firearm training replace local discretion in concealed carry permitting? (with John J. Donohue, Amy Zhang, and Matthew Benavides)

PRESENTATIONS

2023: Swiss National Bank; Bank for International Settlements; Stanford SIEPR predoc seminar

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

University of Pennsylvania

International Trade (Undergraduate) Fall 2025

University of Basel / Swiss National Bank:

Applied Monetary Policy (Master) Fall 2022

University of Lausanne

Statistics II (Undergraduate) Spring 2020

Statistics I (Undergraduate) Fall 2019

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards

Certificate of excellence in first-year Macroeconomics, University of Pennsylvania 2025

1st prize Research Data Challenge (best undergraduate dissertation), University of Lausanne 2021

Award of excellence (best grades of the school), Swiss University admission tests (PrEP)	2018
Merit-based scholarships	
Foundation Zdenek and Michaela Bakala scholarship, University of Cambridge	2021
Annen scholarship, full funding by Lausanne for an exchange at Penn (canceled due to Covid)	2020
Other fellowships	
Xingmei Zhang & Yongge Dai graduate fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2025
Benjamin Franklin fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2024

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

National Coordinator , Rethinking Economics Switzerland	2022 – 2023
Vice President , Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism	2021 – 2022
Vice President , Rethinking Economics Lausanne	2019 – 2021
Student Representative , Faculty Council HEC Lausanne	2019 – 2020
Co-Founder , Investment Society HEC-EPFL	2019 – 2020
Editor-in-Chief , HEconomist (students' journal of HEC Lausanne)	2018 – 2020
Board Member and Head of PR & Media , L'aiMant Rose (breast cancer NGO)	2018 – 2019

PRE-BACHELOR EXPERIENCE

Junior Banker , Credit Suisse, private banking and corporate banking	2016 – 2017
Intern , Nestlé, compliance and audit	2015 – 2016

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Citizenship	Swiss, British
Languages	French (native), English (native proficiency), German (basic)
Technical skills	Python, R, MATLAB+Dynare, Julia, Stata, SQL, \LaTeX