

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), <i>R&R Journal of Urban Economics</i>
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
1 st 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, L^AT_EX