

Data Scientist

Phil Goddard, Housing Association Charitable Trust and Sainsbury's

HACT is a social enterprise working alongside the social housing sector.

My main interest is in predictive modelling using machine learning techniques, such as classification modelling to identify tenants that are at risk of falling into rent arrears and regression modelling around property repair costs.

Following my PhD in theoretical nuclear physics, I joined an engineering consultancy doing computational fluid dynamics modelling for about 6 months. I spent a lot of time building up my skill set for data science roles, both during my PhD and in my first role. I used open online courses such as Coursera prior to writing up my thesis. I found my role at HACT through a specialist data science recruitment agency (Pivigo). I am about to start a new role, still as a data scientist, but in the retail sector (Sainsbury's), where I am looking forward to a change of pace and larger variety of projects.

"Unless you want to stay in research, you need to work at getting a technical role outside academia. Don't give up! If you go from academia to business, it may take a while to build up skills and find your niche."

