

Damian Phelan

Date of Birth: 15/03/1988

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Academic employment and affiliations

- 2022-2025 Institute for Fiscal Studies: PhD Scholar**
Awarded a three-year scholarship to study the effect of school culture on academic outcomes in English schools.
- 2022-Present Core Economics: Researcher**
Responsible for preparing teaching resources to complement the new edition of the Core textbook.
- 2021-Present University College London: Postgraduate Teaching Assistant**
Tutorial leader on the 1st year undergraduate module ECON0002: Economics. Awarded best 1st Year undergraduate PGTA 2021-22
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Academic works in progress

“School culture and academic outcomes” – PhD research focus

Education

- 2020-2025 University College London London, UK**
MRes/PhD Economics. Awarded a Merit for the MRes component.
- 2019-2020 University College London London, UK**
MSc in Economics. Awarded a Distinction.
- 2011-2013 Institute of Education, University College London London, UK**
MSc in the Economics of Education (2 year part-time). Awarded a Distinction.
- 2010-2011 Imperial College London/CC University London, UK**
INSPIRE PGCE in Science Education. Awarded a Distinction as well as achieving QTS.
- 2006 – 2010 Imperial College London London, UK**
MSci in Physics with Theoretical Physics. Obtained a 1st Class Honours Degree.
- 2002 – 2006 Gormanston College Meath, Ireland**
Achieved one of the top 8 sets of results nationwide in the Irish Leaving Certificate for the academic year 2005-06.
Leaving Certificate Results: Mathematics (A1), Applied Mathematics (A1), Physics (A1), Chemistry (A1), English (A1), French (A1), German (A1), History (A1).
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Previous Employment

Jun 2017 – Aug 2019 Michaela Community School, Wembley, London: Head of Physics

As the Head of Physics my responsibilities included coordinating all teaching resources for physics from Years 7 up to 13 including GCSE and A-Level material. I monitored the quality of physics teaching within the Science department and offered feedback and guidance to help develop subject expertise. I also delivered several professional development workshops.

Sep 2016 – Jun 2017 Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, Lewisham, London: Assistant Principal

My role on the Senior Leadership Team was as part of the Quality of Teaching team. My main responsibilities involved monitoring and evaluating teaching standards across the school. This was achieved through lesson observations, learning walks and scrutinising of pupils' work. I was also tasked with the analysis of the collected data and reporting to the Leadership team, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Governors. I worked with my fellow leadership colleagues to ensure all staff received appropriate professional development opportunities and delivered CPD sessions on a range of topics.

Apr 2014 – Jul 2016 St. Paul's Way Trust School, Tower Hamlets, London: Head of Faculty (Science)

As Head of the Science Faculty I was responsible for pupil outcomes at all Key Stages. When I arrived at the school the outcomes at KS3 and KS4 for pupils were significantly worse than in English and Maths. Only 36% of pupils achieved 2 Science GCSEs at A* - C in the summer of 2014. In 2015 this increased to 60% and in 2016 we had a further increase to 64%. Those achieving at least two A* - A grades rose from 5% of the cohort in 2015 to 15% in 2016. KS5 outcomes remained consistently good throughout my tenure across all three sciences.

Jun 2011 – Apr 2014 Cardinal Pole RC School, Hackney, London: Science Teacher, Learning Champion, Second-in-Charge of Science

I was employed initially as a science teacher while later taking on roles of responsibility as a Learning Champion and then as Second-in-Charge of Science. My day-to-day role involved planning and delivering lessons to a range of age and ability groups. My role as a Learning Champion required me to offer support to other teachers within the school through a process of observation and mentoring with the aim of improving the quality of their teaching. As Second-in-Charge of Science I was given responsibility for KS3 Science. I spearheaded the introduction of a new curriculum, created appropriate assessments, and put in place an intervention programme to support underachieving pupils.

Sep 2010 – May 2011 Trainee Teacher at Cardinal Pole RC School and Henrietta Barnett School

As part of my PGCE training I was responsible for planning and delivering lessons throughout the year at both schools. I was also required to organise after school science and engineering clubs to engage the interests of pupils outside the curriculum. Throughout the year, I visited a variety of different schools to deliver an inspirational presentation on my special area of interest within science which involved using liquid nitrogen, giant bubbles and a range of demonstrations to discuss the history of the universe. Both placement schools awarded me an Outstanding grade for my teaching practice.

Skills

Computer Skills: Languages and software: Competent with Matlab, R, SPSS and Stata.

Languages: English: Native speaker.
French: Strong conversational and written skills.
Spanish: Good conversational and written skills.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In my spare time I enjoy keeping fit by playing football, tennis and regularly going to the gym. I am also an avid reader of history, biography, general non-fiction and The Economist. I also enjoy travelling to interesting parts of the world; recent trips include Siberia, Senegal and China.