Unlike many young people born and bred in the rural county of Dorset, I made my way north to Durham University to pursue a MChem in Chemistry. In my fourth year, under the supervision of Professor Ian R. Baxendale, I studied the photochemical synthesis of oximes in flow, sparking an interest in flow chemistry as a synthetic chemistry platform.

In 2019, I joined the Gaunt group in Cambridge as part of the SynTech CDT, briefly investigating the use of metalaphotoredox catalysis for alkene difunctionalisation. I subsequently joined the Ley group in Cambridge to continue my established interest in flow chemistry, this time to develop robust continuous procedures to forge Csp2-Csp3 bonds. Also of interest in this area is the large scale preparation of desirable molecules using continuous processing methods.

The SynTech programme appealed to me as its underlying principles align with my own. For about 240 years, chemists have been crafting and perfecting current synthesis techniques, thus begging the question: how will automation and computation change the way we do synthesis? As a synthetic organic chemist, I am fundamentally interested in reactivity, mechanism and synthesis. However, I am also keen to investigate how enabling technologies, such as flow, in collaboration with artificial intelligence can synergistically enhance molecule synthesis in the future