

Justin Wender

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EDUCATION

Northeastern University – GPA: 3.9/4.0, Summa Cum Laude

Boston, MA

Bachelor of Science in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; Concentration in Logic and Game Theory

December 2025

Master of Science in Economics and Data Science

July 2026

Relevant Coursework: *Applied Econometrics, Mathematics and Statistics, Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Computational Finance and Financial Econometrics, Applied Data Analytics in Economics, Deterministic Operations Research*

EXPERIENCE

Optimum

Remote – Boston, MA

Technical Ambassador

November 2025 – Present

- Create technical explainers, summaries, and breakdowns for a 240,000 member online community on topics including Random Linear Network Coding (RLNC) and memory layers for decentralized virtual machines.
- Drive discussions regarding protocol developments, scaling solutions, and product use cases on Medium, X, Reddit and Discord.
- Contribute to weekly community calls in discussions of updates, key concepts, and emerging narratives in Optimum's protocol.

Fireblocks

New York, NY

Digital Asset Research Analyst and Product Intern

June 2025 – August 2025

- Conducted full-scale risk assessments on 18 digital assets for NYDFS cold custody self-certification, presenting key risks and advising potential self-certification to Fireblocks board committee.
- Utilized quantitative methods to identify key risks involved with staking digital currencies, using statistical outcomes to establish comprehensive risk evaluation criteria for certifying Fireblocks to stake custodied digital assets.
- Spearheaded discovery phase for the integration of Multi-Party Computation (MPC) warm wallet infrastructure in digital asset custody services, facilitating discussions between product, sales, and compliance teams.
- Aided in end-to-end testing and quality assurance of Fireblocks Trust app and web interface.
- Integrated third-party pricing API into digital asset custody capital requirements spreadsheet to ensure compliance protocols reflected most current market dynamics.

Token Research Group Capital (TRGC)

Remote – Amsterdam, NL

Digital Asset Research Analyst

November 2024 – March 2025

- Drafted and finalized pitch deck for \$10 million liquid fund targeted toward high net-worth individuals.
- Led discovery of small-cap digital assets, researching liquidity, exits, and yield opportunities from 20+ startup tokens.
- Utilized enterprise data providers to evaluate 10+ mid-large cap digital assets for signs of undervaluation.

LEADERSHIP

Northeastern University Blockchain Club

Boston, MA

President, Director of Research

September 2025 – Present

- Direct organizational strategy for Northeastern University's premier blockchain organization, overseeing 12 board members.
- Coordinate relationships with VCs, decentralized protocols, and university groups with a special interest in fintech by fostering connections, leading meetings, and orchestrating event collaborations.
- Facilitate educational workshops for 40+ general members on the virtues of blockchain and distributed ledger technology, teaching concepts such as smart contracts, consensus mechanisms, and tokenized physical assets and infrastructure.
- Directed six-member research team to explore the comparative effectiveness of fiat, commodity-backed, and decentralized currencies through a quantitative framework, integrating insights from economics, game theory, and blockchain protocol design.
- Designed the research scope and modeling strategy to translate high-level economic theory into quantifiable comparisons of monetary systems, including trust dynamics, inflation targeting, and governance mechanisms.

PROJECTS

Optimum Hackathon

Cambridge, MA

Winner, Visualization and Insights Track

September 2025

- Built a Shiny (R) app to visualize real-time VM memory transfers between proxies using logs, metrics, and traces from Optimum's P2P memory layer. Benchmarked performance against GossipSub to demonstrate reduced data transfer latency across nodes.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Skills: R (Tidyverse, Shiny), Python (Pandas, NumPy), MATLAB, SQL, Econometrics, Risk Modeling, Optimization Mathematics

Affiliations: Alpha Kappa Sigma (Philanthropy, Risk, Social), Omicron Delta Epsilon, Philosophy Club, Intramural Ice Hockey

Interests: Rowing, Ice Hockey (Playing and Coaching), Ancient Philosophy, Folk and Experimental Rock, City-Builder Games