

James Edward Ball

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Deep Technology & Innovation

Summary

Innovation lead working across deep technology at the Asian Development Bank, including GenAI, quantum computing, cryptography, digital assets and geospatial AI. Relentlessly curious about emerging technology, with a product mindset and a track record of turning new technologies into practical institutional products and programmes.

Experience

Digital Innovation Consultant, Asian Development Bank

Manila / Remote, 2025 - present

- Technical lead for special projects and digital innovation: GenAI, quantum computing, cryptography, digital assets and geospatial AI
- Refine, develop and drive new concepts across these areas with business units bank-wide

Visiting Researcher, Edinburgh Napier University

Edinburgh, 2026 - present

- Blockpass Digital Identity Lab (TRUST), School of Computing
- Technical design and project lead, Bank of England Digital Pound pilot; shortlisted, BoE DLT Innovation Challenge

Product Manager, Product & Ventures, Nethermind

Edinburgh, 2024 - 2025

- Owned the institutional digital-asset roadmap across the consultancy business
- Founded the post-quantum cryptography research unit and AI/ML consulting practice
- Opened and led Nethermind's Edinburgh office

Product Manager, Copper Technologies

London, 2024

- Owned T+0 digital-dollar settlement and agency lending within Copper Prime Brokerage

Product Manager, Universal (formerly Alongside Finance)

Remote, 2022 - 2023

- Led product development for on-chain institutional digital-asset indexes and investment products

DeFi Analyst, Monolith

London, 2021 - 2022

- Research and live deployment of collateral-efficient DeFi strategies

Affiliations

- Expert Roster, OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities: virtual-asset money-laundering policy, 2026 - present
- Contributing Member, Scottish Blockchain and Digital Trust Taskforce (TRUST), Scottish Enterprise, 2024 - present

Education

University of Edinburgh MSc Data Science Technologies

2026 - present

- Machine learning, AI and data science at the Bayes Centre

University of Aberdeen PhD candidate, quantitative petroleum science (incomplete)

2020 - 2021

- 3D drone-based photogrammetry for reservoir characterisation

University of Aberdeen B.Sc. (Hons) Geology & Petroleum Geology, First Class

2016 - 2020

- McHardy Scholar; Best Undergraduate Dissertation; runner-up, Dave Johnson Mapping Prize (Geological Society of London)