**Ryan Xue**

(647) 768-1006

ryan.xue@mail.utoronto.ca

linkedin.com/in/ryan-x-01bbab312

https://github.com/Ryan-Xue2

Professor Chi-Guhn Lee

5 King’s College Road, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G8

Date: 8 August 2025

Re: Research Assistant

Dear Professor Lee,

I am writing to you to ask for your consideration as a research assistant in your lab. I was encouraged to apply after speaking with Max from your lab, who recommended that I apply here based on my interests in reinforcement learning and agentic AI. I am a computer science student going into my second year, and although I am still actively developing my machine learning experience, I believe that I can make meaningful contributions to your research.

Your lab’s focus on reinforcement learning and the application of Markov decision processes aligns perfectly with my current academic interests. For instance, the financial applications, like the use of recurrent reinforcement learning for portfolio returns, look particularly exciting to me and are one of the many areas that I would be happy to contribute to.

I have a strong academic record, including a 4.0 GPA, and I’ve developed a strong foundation in problem-solving and algorithmic thinking through competitive programming experience and building projects. For example, my “Reqtify” project applies sentence embeddings and a decision tree to recommend songs, and my “Cobra Chess” engine uses alpha-beta pruning, several performance optimizations, and a neural network for position evaluation. I believe the problem-solving and technical skills honed through these projects would be valuable to the work your lab is doing.

Thank you for the time to review my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing this opportunity with you further.

Sincerely,

Ryan Xue