

Wanyi Chen

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<https://wanyichen.github.io>

EDUCATION

2021–Present | Duke University (Expected graduation Dec 2025)

Ph.D. student in Computer Science, Advisor: Prof. Mary (Missy) Cummings
Research interests: Responsible AI, Human–AI Interaction

2015–2019 | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.A. in Computer Science and Cultural Studies, minor in Entrepreneurship

EXPERIENCE

May 2024 – Jul 2024 | Project Manager, Duke Science and Society | Durham, NC

Led two interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students to work with non-profit organizations to address real-world challenges in policy, technology, and ethics

Jun 2019 – Dec 2020 | Software Engineer, Audible Inc. | Cambridge, MA

Implemented new features and maintained the Android app using Java and Kotlin
Led a teamwide initiative to improve the Android app's accessibility: pinpointed existing issues and offered solutions, created an accessibility guideline, and held a tech talk to raise awareness

Jan 2019 – May 2019 | Research Assistant, UNC Enabling Technology Lab | Chapel Hill, NC

Designed and developed a swipe-based keyboard prototype for children without fine motor control
Conducted user study with two teenagers with Cerebral Palsy and developed design guidelines

Jun 2018 – Aug 2018 | Forensic Technology Consulting Intern, PwC | San Francisco, CA

Aggregated and analyzed client data to understand the level of financial or regulatory exposure involved

Jan 2018 – May 2018 | Software Engineering Intern, Nstream | San Jose, CA

Developed a Java program that collects, analyzes, and visualizes real-time operational data

PUBLICATION

Chen, W., Su, M., Mehjabin, N., & Cummings, M. (2024). Can LLMs plan paths in the real world? [[arXiv](#)]

Chen, W., & Cummings, M. (2024, May). Subjectivity in Unsupervised Machine Learning Model Selection. In *Proceedings of the AAAI Symposium Series* (Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 22–29). [[PDF](#)][[Video](#)]

TEACHING ASSISTANT APPOINTMENTS

Jan 2024 – May 2024 | Duke | CS586 Human-Centered Security and Privacy

Jan 2023 – May 2023 | Duke | CS240 Race, Gender, Class, and Computing

Aug 2016 – Dec 2016 | UNC | COMP110 Intro to Programming

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Teaching on Purpose Fellowship

Selective fellowship for doctoral students who are passionate about teaching
Engage in weekly seminars to develop a robust teaching philosophy and create compelling courses

2017 AnitaB.org Grace Hopper Student Scholar

Selective scholarship for attending the largest women in technology conference

2017 Carolina Research Scholar

Recognition for students with significant involvement in undergraduate research

2016 Computing Research Organization —Women Grace Hopper Research Scholar

Selective scholarship for attending the largest women in technology conference