

Kayla Cheng

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EDUCATION

Columbia University

New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Data Science, Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Expected May 2028

- **Major GPA:** 3.7 / 4.0 (Dean's List); ACT: 35
- **Currently Enrolled In:** Intermediate Microeconomics, Probability Theory
- **Relevant Past Coursework:** Principles of Economics, Calculus-based Statistics, Data Structures and Algorithms, Introduction to Java Programming

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sustainable Finance Group

New York, NY

Associate, Equity Research

August 2024 - Present

- Conducted financial analysis and equity valuation integrating ESG and traditional metrics (profitability, leverage, liquidity) to inform fund strategy.
- Co-authored a 9,000+ word, 41-page Fund I Sustainable Equity Investment Report analyzing sector performance, financial fundamentals, and ESG risks across five key industries including renewable energy, agriculture, and advanced tech.
- Developed investment theses and sector outlooks to inform fund strategy; findings were incorporated into stakeholder communications and investment marketing materials.

Engineers Without Borders - Columbia University Chapter

New York, NY

Project Manager & Lead, Obodan Research Team

August 2024 - Present

- Led a 59-member chapter to launch a \$40,000 education infrastructure project serving 60+ households in Obodan, Ghana; coordinated efforts across fundraising, technical scoping, and stakeholder engagement.
- Collaborated with local NGOs, engineers, and government officials to align on community needs, troubleshoot regulatory barriers, and co-develop a sustainable construction plan.
- Led cross-functional teams in problem-solving sessions to address funding gaps and logistical challenges, resulting in a revised phased implementation strategy and renewed donor commitments.

FlashGrub: Food Waste Reduction Startup

New York, NY

Intern, Marketing & Outreach

January 2025 - Present

- Developed and executed go-to-market strategies for early-stage pilot programs; secured two corporate clients and one community organization to test product-market fit; Drove engagement among target cohort of 85+ users

United Nations: Commission on the Status of Women

New York, NY

National Delegate, Girls Learn International

January 2022 - May 2024

- Delivered a panel address to 100+ attendees on gender disparities in STEM education in the digital age, strengthening public speaking and structured communication skills in high-stakes settings.
- Partnered with international delegates and NGO leaders to develop cross-border advocacy strategies, aligning on key messaging and stakeholder engagement tactics.

Asian Passion Program

Remote

Japan Country Director & Founder

March 2021 - May 2024

- Founded and led the Japan chapter of a global nonprofit, launching a cross-cultural education initiative to provide free English tutoring for underserved Japanese youth.
- Recruited, trained, and managed a team of 21 tutors and scaled outreach efforts to serve 15+ students; implemented operational systems and community-building events to ensure continuity, tutor engagement, and student retention.
- Built sustainable program infrastructure and drove long-term impact through partnerships, localized engagement strategies, and continuous process improvement.

PERSONAL

Languages: Fluent in English and Japanese; Conversational Proficiency in Spanish

Awards: Publication in *ACS ES&T Engineering Journal*; Presidential Volunteer Service Award - Gold (2x); Stockholm Institute - Water Foundation Environment Award; Hershey Heartwarming Grant; Society of Women Engineers Merit