

Lili Mkrtchyan

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, College of Arts & Sciences

Ithaca, NY

Bachelor of Arts in Information Science, Cognitive Science

May 2025

- **GPA:** 3.73 | Davis Scholar, Dean's list

University of Edinburgh, Study Abroad

January 2024 – May 2024

United World College Dilijan, Armenia

2019-2021

Yale University, Yale Young Global Scholars

July 2020

SKILLS

- **Programming/Markdown Languages:** Python, Java, JavaScript, R, PHP, TypeScript, HTML/CSS, React, Arduino
- **Data Analysis/Prediction Tools:** Python, R, Machine Learning, Statistical Theory, SQL
- **Design Tools:** Figma, Notion, Canva, Adobe InDesign, Fusion 360, Inkscape
- **Languages:** Fluent in English, Russian, Armenian

WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Armenian National Institute/ Armenian Assembly

Washington, D.C.

Terjenian-Thomas Intern

June 2024 – August 2024

- Participated in an 8-week internship program focusing on the policy-making process in Washington, D.C., specifically addressing issues important to the Armenian American community.
- Coded >200 HTML/CSS webpages based on the archived PDF files for the upcoming Assembly website.
- Effectively communicated Armenian issues and engaged in lobbying efforts at the U.S. Congress, distributing Rep. Adam Schiff's letter on the destruction of Armenian heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and advocating for preservation.
- Conducted research on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the blockade of the Lachin corridor, and the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Artsakh, contributing to the Assembly's informational resources.
- Met with various congresspeople (e.g., Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Adam Schiff, Sen. Ed Markey)

Nylon Software

Ithaca/Remote, NY

Full Stack Developer

June 2023 – Sept 2023

- Developed an application that facilitates partnerships between independent local businesses and enables users to easily participate in loyalty programs.
- Conducted market research by interviewing business owners to identify issues on customer retention and reward programs.
- Created 20 front-end screens using React framework within a tight deadline of 2 weeks.
- Collaborated with a team consisting of a marketer and 6 other full stack developers.
- Received an invitation for a YC Combinator interview, showcasing the innovation of the startup.

The Cornell Daily Sun

Ithaca, NY

Associate Editor in Training

September 2023 - October 2023

- Completed a comprehensive 6-week training program focused on associate editor responsibilities.
- Oversaw and edited the subjective section (50 writers) of the Cornell Daily Sun, including the opinion section, dining and arts sections, and guest columns. Supervised the dining and arts editors.
- Attended weekly managing board meetings of 7 people, actively engaging in executive decision-making processes to shape the newspaper's vision.
- Resulted in departmental changes through actively advocating for underrepresented groups in my column read by 16,000 readers in print and 200,000 readers per month on the website.

International Students Union (ISU)

Ithaca, NY

Vice President of Publicity

September 2021 - March 2023

- Edited, coordinated, and sent out the bi-weekly newsletter to over 100 active members.
- Led a 10-person team through mentorship and systematic meetings, resulting in 500 student engagements
- Collected \$4,000 for the annual fundraiser for Armenia and Iran.
- Initiated the news reporting protocols for the club to be more transparent and inclusive.

PROJECTS

Technical Skills in Robotics and Smart Sensor Integration

Ithaca, NY

Team Member

September 2024 – December 2024

- Designed and developed CubeScrub, the first robot of its kind for efficient cleaning, featuring three-axis movement, precise navigation controls, and a spinning arm for scrubbing.
- Collaborated with a team to execute hardware development, wiring, programming, laser cutting, and 3D modeling and printing to bring the robot from concept to reality.
- Utilized advanced tools and techniques to create an innovative and functional robotic system.

- Prepared for public exhibition at the Ithaca Science Center on December 14th, showcasing CubeScrub's groundbreaking design and capabilities.

Student Consultant and Team Lead, StudioLab

Ithaca, NY

Producer - Team Lead

September 2024 – December 2024

- Led a team collaboration with Newfield School District to design a campaign for the Virtual Academy to reduce dropouts
- Conducted research on public school data, competitor charter schools, best practices in virtual learning, and transmedia communication theory.
- Developed campaign materials, including a website, flyers, and infographics, to promote the Virtual Academy's flexible learning opportunities.
- Advised other project teams during guild workshops, providing guidance on campaign strategies and project execution.
- Collaborated with the AJ Maste Memorial Foundation team to create a campaign encouraging young activist groups to apply for funding.
- Supported Health Access Connect (HAC) team in developing internal and external reports to support fundraising efforts for equitable healthcare access in Uganda.

Participatory Design Research and Technology Development Initiative

Edinburgh, UK

Team Member

January 2024 - May 2024

- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team in the course "Data, Design, and The City" to tackle tourist traffic congestion during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- Conducted focus groups with past festival attendees to gather insights into their experiences and needs.
- Performed elicitation studies to observe how participants planned their festival activities using existing tools.
- Interviewed tourist agencies to understand operational challenges during peak times.
- Consulted with Joshua Ryan-Saha, co-founder of TravelTech, to explore the integration of AI and data into tourism.
- Enhanced understanding of participatory design and the interconnectedness of urban design, travel, and technology.

Digital Product Design

Ithaca, NY

Case Study

September 2022 – December 2022

- Conducted thorough user research to ideate and develop an impactful Live Chat feature for Telegram.
- Employed Figma to craft a comprehensive range of interactive prototypes, spanning low, middle, and high-fidelity iterations, effectively translating conceptual designs into tangible user experiences.
- Innovatively explored diverse user flows and visual representations, meticulously presenting the proposed solution through thoughtfully designed prototypes aimed at real-time communication and strengthening user relationships.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SciFi Lab, Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Research Assistant

September 2024 – Ongoing

- Contributed to the development of glasses fitted with infrared sensors to detect eyelid movements, blinks, and twitches.
- Collected and analyzed data to identify patterns in eyelid behavior, with the goal of advancing early detection of mental health disorders and fatigue.
- Applied knowledge of cognitive science and computational neuroscience to enhance the design and functionality of healthcare technology.

Null Compliance: NYC Local Law 144 and Algorithm Accountability

Ithaca, NY

Student Contributor

September 2023 – December 2023

- Conducted click path analysis to evaluate the accessibility of companies' Bias Audit Reports and AI tool usage notices on their websites.
- Assessed compliance with NYC Local Law 144, which mandates companies using automated employment decision tools to publish Bias Audit Reports addressing potential race and gender bias.
- Tracked the availability of required reports and notices, highlighting the state of compliance with AI-driven hiring system regulations.
- Contributed findings to research presented at FAccT, The ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (June 2024).
- Enhanced understanding of algorithm accountability and the challenges of enforcing transparency in AI systems.

Current Research in Emotion, Cognition, and Brain

Ithaca, NY

Student Contributor

January 2023 – May 2023

- Explored advanced topics in neuroscience and psychology, focusing on how the brain represents internal physiological states and their influence on emotional experiences.
- Synthesized scientific literature through written reactions to primary research articles, contributing to a deeper understanding of interoception-related debates and advancements.
- Presented research findings through two co-presentations, honing skills in oral communication and collaboration
- Expanded understanding of the role of interoception in shaping emotion, cognition, and behavior through a multidisciplinary approach.