

Lucas Yao

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EDUCATION

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY), New York, NY
BS, Computer Science & Information Security, Minor in Mathematics | GPA: 4.00 Expected May 2025

New York University, New York, NY
MS, Data Science Expected Spring 2027

PROJECTS

PlantID Care Companion | [Streamlit app](#) Mar 2025 - Present

- Collaborating in a team of 4 and building a full-stack plant identification tool using Python, Streamlit, and PlantNet API, enabling accurate species recognition from user-uploaded images.
- Engineering a fuzzy-matching system linking plant IDs to care guides with personality profiles and traits, enhancing instruction relevance by **65%**.
- Integrating LLM-based chat, allowing users to “talk” to their plants through personalized, character-driven interactions.

Emotionfy | [GitHub-Repo](#) Sep 2024 - Dec 2024

- Collaborated in a team of 3 to develop a real-time emotion detection system using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and integrated with Spotify’s API to create dynamic playlist recommendations based on facial expressions.
- Engineered a full-stack application using React for the frontend interface and Flask backend to process facial recognition data and handle API communications.
- Implemented deep learning models trained on **35,000+** facial images to classify **7** distinct emotions, achieving **85%** accuracy in real-time emotion detection.

BMCCConnect | [Website](#) May 2023 – Jul 2023

- Developed a dynamic website with Django and Python to showcase analytical insights, in a team of 5.
- Created a user-friendly curriculum search & course planner page with Django framework, JavaScript, SQL, CSS, and HTML for CIS department students.
- Analyzed STEM enrollment and graduation rates in colleges in the US using SQL, JavaScript, and Pandas.

EXPERIENCE

College Assistant | BMCC | New York, NY Sep 2023 - Dec 2023

- Assisted Computer Science 101 professor with lectures and provided one-on-one tutoring for **20** students on subjects such as information technology and computation, enhancing their overall learning experience.

BMCC Technology Learning Community Intern | BMCC | New York, NY May 2023 – Jul 2023

- Implemented key features such as a curriculum search function, live chat support, and data analysis visualizations, providing comprehensive resources for academic and career guidance and aiding in informed decision-making for **~1,500** students in the CIS department.
- Collaborated with a team to design and develop a user-friendly website for BMCC.

LEADERSHIP / ACTIVITIES

John Jay Computer Science Society Club - Web Developer, CSS [Website](#) Sep 2024 – Present

CUNY Tech Prep Data Science Fellow Jul 2024 – Present

CUNY Peer Leadership Program Sep 2022 – May 2023

CERTIFICATIONS & RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Technical Coursework:

- Object-Oriented Programming (C++), Data Structures & Algorithms, Software Development, Probability & Statistics, Cryptanalysis, Programming Languages, Machine Learning
- Google Data Analytics Certificate, Coursera, June 2024 - [Link](#)
- Databases for Data Scientists Specialization, Coursera, July 2024 - [Link](#)