

Mengchen Li

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Jul. 2025 – Dec. 2026 (Expected)

Master of Science in Education | Education Policy Program | GPA: 3.85/4.00

Renmin University of China

Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2025

Bachelor of Arts | Major: English | GPA: 3.76/4.00

Awards: Academic Excellence Scholarship; Three Good Student Award (*Three Times*); Everlasting Friendship Scholarship; Outstanding Volunteer Award (*Twice*); Excellent Graduate Award; Excellent Undergraduate Thesis Award

Yale University, Summer School

Jul. 2023 – Aug. 2023

Courses: Education and Empire (A); Writing Seminars I (A)

PUBLICATIONS

- Li, M. (2025). Why Can They Learn So Well? The Multidimensional Impact of Parental Income Levels on Chinese Children's Academic Achievement. *SAGE Open*, 15(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440251355367>
 - Li, M. (2025). Policy Analysis on College Access for Low-Income Students in the United States. In *Proceedings of the 2024 4th International Conference on Education, Language and Art (ICELA 2024)*. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 813–822. https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-364-1_101
 - Li, M.¹, Cai, X.¹, Jiang, M., & Yang, S. (2025). Weakened and delayed tonal processing in L2 Mandarin syllable perception: Evidence from mismatch negativity. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*. (Under review)
- ¹ Co-first author: These authors contributed equally to this work.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Weakened and Delayed Tonal Processing in L2 Mandarin Syllable Perception: Evidence from Mismatch Negativity

Co-First Author

Oct. 2024 – May 2025

- Designed and conducted an EEG experiment using the mismatch negativity (MMN) paradigm to examine tonal and segmental processing in adult second language (L2) learners of Mandarin
- Discovered attenuated and delayed neural responses to lexical tones compared to native speakers, indicating L2-specific deficits in pre-attentive tonal encoding that differ from segmental processing patterns; manuscript currently under review at *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*

Policy Analysis on College Access for Low-Income Students in the United States

Independent Author

Sept. 2024 – Nov. 2024

- Analyzed support models, intervention mechanisms, and interdepartmental collaboration of U.S. higher education access policies
- Evaluated how education expands opportunities and facilitates intergenerational mobility
- Proposed optimization recommendations and practical pathways to enhance policy implementation; paper accepted by ICELA 2024 conference

Why Can They Learn So Well? The Multidimensional Impact of Parental Income Levels on Chinese Children's Academic Achievement

Independent Author

Oct. 2023 – Jun. 2024

- Conducted interviews with 30 families from different income levels to understand family culture, economic backgrounds, career contexts, and parent-child educational interactions
- Adopted grounded theory method in qualitative research to analyze mechanisms linking socioeconomic factors to children's learning development; published in *SAGE Open*

The Impact of Original Text Features on Cognitive Processing of Post-Editing: An Empirical Study Based on News Texts

Research Team Member

Mar. 2023 – Apr. 2024

- Recruited 40 participants and utilized eye-tracking technology to measure cognitive load during human-machine translation post-editing, analyzing fixation counts and duration across lexical and syntactic text features
- Found that specific linguistic features (causal connectives, pronouns, adverbs) significantly reduce cognitive load, providing evidence-based insights for optimizing translator training and human-AI collaboration workflows
- Won national-level project approval; presented findings at the 6th National Conference on Cognitive Translation Studies in Macau

Ulpan Model and Its Implications for the International Communication of the Chinese Language

Independent Author

May 2023 – Jan. 2024

- Analyzed the rise of the Ulpan model in Hebrew language revitalization and its contribution to language spread and development
- Identified key features of the Ulpan learning approach and proposed applications for international Chinese language education

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Hefei 168 High School, International Department – Teaching Assistant

Oct. 2024 – Nov. 2024

- Analyzed differences between UK A-level and Chinese domestic curricula; developed personalized learning plans and improvement strategies for students; contributed to parent-school communication and student support systems
- Planned and coordinated extracurricular activities including drama festival evaluations to assess students' abilities and provided optimization suggestions

Hefei University of Economics – Administrative Assistant**Sept. 2024 – Oct. 2024**

- Participated in educational policy workshops studying national policy implementation; developed teaching programs, organized student feedback, and proposed suggestions for optimizing teaching systems and industry-education integration projects
- Proposed learning support strategies for struggling students including tutoring and resource support; improved access to learning materials on the school website.

Future Science and Technology Education Base, International Centre for Engineering Education (ICEE) – Research Intern**Jul. 2024 – Sept. 2024**

- Studied the development and trends of international engineering education through comparative analysis of domestic and international contexts
- Investigated AI education implementation in K-12 and vocational settings, with focus on challenges facing under-resourced areas and strategies for promoting educational equity

New Oriental Education – IELTS Instructor Assistant**Jan. 2024 – Feb. 2024**

- Supervised vocabulary learning for three classes; designed and conducted one-on-one oral practice sessions
- Tracked student learning, managed classroom discipline and communicated learning outcomes to parents

Bengbu Education Examination Authority – Educational Counseling Assistant **Aug.2023-Sept.2023 & Jan.2023-Feb.2023**

- Studied the national college entrance examination (Gaokao) reform policies and analyzed their regional impact
- Counseled students preparing for Gaokao, high school entrance exams, and adult education exams; explained exam procedures and admission policies to visitors

Lundbeck Pharmaceutical Information Consulting Co., Ltd. – Training & E-Learning Intern**Apr. 2023 – Jun. 2023**

- Designed and conducted new employee training programs; organized online assessments and analyzed results
- Tracked and compared weekly learning progress across training cohorts; generated data-driven reports on employee learning outcomes to inform training improvements
- Managed corporate e-learning platform including content updates and user support; produced educational materials and coordinated internal training communications

LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**Class Monitor, Renmin University of China****Sept. 2022 – Jun. 2023**

- Coordinated class affairs including class meetings and scholarship selection; delivered notices from college and class advisor
- Led the class to achieve “Advanced Class Group” honor through effective coordination and student engagement initiatives

“Thousand Students, Hundred Villages” Rural Field Research Program**Jun. 2022 – Sept. 2022**

- Interviewed cooperative leaders and visited agricultural greenhouses; designed and administered community questionnaires
- Completed academic paper on agriculture and rural economic development; won second prize in the 25th “Imagine Cup” Curricular Academic Science and Technology Works Competition

“Streets and Alleys of China” Urban Community Investigation Program**Dec. 2021 – Feb. 2022**

- Conducted community investigation on neighborhood development including housing policies and urban transformation
- Collected field data and materials; completed detailed investigation report documenting urban transformation processes

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**Youth Volunteers Association, Renmin University of China****Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2025**

- Encouraged and mentored middle school students in under-resourced areas through letter correspondence program
- Wrote postcards for left-behind children, uploaded to targeted platform, and received highest votes; organized book donations
- Guided freshmen during orientation events; provided clinical laboratory guidance during medical checkups for new students
- Created book appreciation videos and shared reading insights with primary and secondary school students

SKILLS & INTERESTS**Languages:** English (Proficient); Japanese (Intermediate); Mandarin (Native)**Technical Skills:** R; SPSS; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint; Adobe Photoshop; Adobe Animate; Zotero; Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods**Interests:** Reading; Calligraphy; Painting; Swimming; Tai Chi; Tennis; Badminton; Music