

# Sho Hihara

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## WORK

### Japan Tobacco D-LAB

Advisor

**Tokyo, Japan**  
Jan '25 - present

- Leveraging data-driven market insights to identify strategic divestment opportunities to help allocate capital into hedging sectors and emerging opportunities to mitigate the impact of declining global tobacco sales.
- Role started recently; no notable accomplishments as of now.

### Ethereum Japan

Director

**Tokyo, Japan**  
Apr '23 - present

- Lead organizer of the annual [ETHTokyo](#) hackathon and conference, overseeing the event as a whole.
- Welcomed 50+ industry professionals / KOLs to discuss various key themes with a crowd of 350+ participants. Notable individuals include Vitalik Buterin, as well as Audrey Tang.

### Shiftbase, Inc.

Co-founder & CTO

**Tokyo, Japan**  
Dec '21 - Feb '24

- Product, engineering & infra lead of [UNCHAIN](#), one of Japan's largest blockchain developer communities.
- Incubated [80 projects](#) out of the community, 9 of which grew to receive additional funding later on.

### Independent

Technical consultant

**remote**  
Jun '21 - Feb '22

- Lead an R&D team on prototyping a novel architecture to increase the velocity of intellectual property circulation using smart contracts while maintaining compliance.
- Developed a time-based [generative art collection](#) simulating the organic growth and emergence of life forms, exhibited and sold in Bright Moments gallery's London edition.

### Wolfram Research

WSS20 visiting researcher

**Champagne, IL**  
Jun '20 - Jul '20

- Developed [computational methods](#) to sonify (as opposed to visualize) data structures in a way that can potentially provide communicative cues similar to visual cues.
- Industry applications include improving information accessibility for the visually impaired, as well as general expansion of the sensory vocabulary with which we can interact with data.

### Manai Institute of Science and Technology

Curriculum designer / Research mentor

**Tokyo, Japan**  
Jun 2018 - Aug 2019

- Designed the curriculum and assessment method for students' research projects for the data science program.
- Mentored two research projects on the effects of fatiguing exercise on unresisted tendon reaction time.
- Provided additional lecture series on designing experiments with an emphasis on avoiding statistical biases.

## EDUCATION

### Minerva University

Bachelor of Sciences (Computational Sciences Major)

**San Francisco, USA**  
Sep '17 - May '21

- Cumulative GPA: 3.22/4.00
- Major Coursework: Machine Learning, Causal Inference, Mathematical Analysis, Computational Physics, Data Science & Statistics, Computational Modeling & Simulation, Quantitative Finance
- Thesis: *Algorap: Fully automated composition of rap music with Transformers and Hierarchical VAE*
- Twice-elected representative at Associated Students of Minerva, focused on academic policy improvements

### Pearson College UWC

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

**Victoria, Canada**  
Sep '15 - May '17

- Main Coursework: Physics, Economics, Mathematics, Marine Science, Theatre, Theory of Knowledge
- Activities: Emergency response team, Cultural performance arts

## SKILLS

- Languages: English, Japanese
- Business development (yrs): Strategic Planning (4), Product development (3), Human resources (3), Startup finance (2)
- Software development (yrs): Data analysis (6), Web apps(5), Sysadmin (4), Blockchain (3), Cybersecurity (3)

## HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- [Masason](#) fellow ('17 - '22)
- [UWC](#) scholar ('15 - '17)