ASHER ELLIS

aye6@seas.upenn.edu
(858) 625-1707
asherellis.net

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania | M.S.E. in Computer and Information Science | August 2025 to December 2026
- Selected for the inaugural cohort of the Air Force's Strategic Scholars Program—full funding for ten officers to pursue STEM master's degrees in fields critical to national defense

Yale University | B.S. in Applied Mathematics | GPA: 3.8/4.0 | August 2020 to May 2025
- Coursework in computer science, economics, global affairs, philosophy, Hebrew and Indonesian language
- Senior thesis: *"Adversarial Robustness in Convolutional Neural Networks for Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Imagery"*
- Member, Schmidt Program on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and National Power

U.S. Department of State | National Security Language Initiative | December 2019 to May 2020, May to June 2023
- Two-time recipient; studied Arabic and lived with a host family in Marrakesh, Morocco

EXPERIENCE

U.S. Air Force | Second Lieutenant, Intelligence Officer (14N) | May 2025 to present
- Commissioned through Air Force ROTC and selected as a Distinguished Graduate – top 10% of cadets nationwide
- Currently pursuing M.S.E. in Computer and Information Science through the Strategic Scholars Program, preparing for technical intelligence roles with a focus on AI and Indo-Pacific affairs

In-Q-Tel | Program Management Intern | June to August 2023
- Supported a portfolio of 10+ emerging technology startups on behalf of the DoD and U.S. Intelligence Community

Special Competitive Studies Project | Research Assistant | February to May 2022, January to May 2023
- Led research into potential U.S.-ally technology partnerships in 5G, energy, and advanced manufacturing
- Researched global tech ecosystems and provided policy recommendations for place-based industrial policy in U.S. cities

Beta Technologies | Intern, Flight Test and Federal Programs | September to December 2022
- Developed Phase III SBIR proposal to commercialize an electric aircraft and national charging network
- Supported flight testing, pilot training, and airworthiness certification with Army DEVCOM and Air Force Agility Prime

Vyoma | Systems Engineering Intern | May to July 2022
- Conducted risk mitigation for an upcoming satellite launch as part of Vyoma's space debris-tracking constellation
- Generated system requirements documents for structures, communications, power, and data handling subsystems

Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI | Researcher | December 2021 to February 2022
- Studied AI performance on human tasks and sources of error under Dr. Vael Gates

500 Global | Investment Data Intern | September to December 2021
- Developed a composite scoring method to evaluate 2,500+ investments accounting for $1.8 billion in AUM
- Scraped data from complex legal documents to analyze portfolio deals and develop Salesforce dashboards

PROJECTS AND AWARDS

Mercatus Center at George Mason University | Emergent Ventures Grant | March 2024
- Received $15,000 grant to travel to Indonesia, research its political economy, and visit its new capital city
- Published articles on Indonesia's new capital city, development of high-speed rail, and role in the energy transition

Geopolitics of Technology Forum | Conference Planner | January to May 2024
- Organized a high-profile event in D.C. with over 100 attendees, featuring 30+ experts on technology and national security
- Secured $30,000 in sponsorships from groups such as the Department of State and Special Competitive Studies Project

Technology, Export Controls, and Human Rights | Author | March to June 2022
- Wrote a 12-page feature article on the use of export controls to promote human rights and civil liberties

U.S. Department of Energy | Solar Decathlon (Finalist) | October 2020 to April 2021
- Forecasted energy demand and local climate conditions to design affordable solar-powered housing units in Los Angeles
- Analyzed mechanical systems (HVAC) and architectural structures to optimize modularity and energy efficiency

OTHER

Technical Skills: Python, R, Java, HTML/CSS/JavaScript, SQL, MATLAB, Salesforce, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

International Experience: 45+ countries, including Germany, China, Turkey, Israel, Ukraine, El Salvador, and Bulgaria

Languages: English (native), Hebrew (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), Arabic (beginner), Indonesian (beginner)