

DANIEL ZHAO

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EDUCATION

Harvard College, Mathematics & Computer Science, Class of 2028, GPA: 3.87

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Citadel (New York, NY) | *Incoming Equities Associate (CAP) Intern* | Summer 2027

Merge Labs SPV (Cambridge, MA) | Co-GP | November 2025–Present

- Co-led \$5.9M SPV investment into Merge Labs (Sam Altman-backed brain-computer interface startup); drove diligence and close for an oversubscribed round
- Wrote IC memo and market map; coordinated counsel and subscriptions; managed LP updates through closing

HOF Capital (New York, NY) | *Venture Fellow* | May–Sep 2025

- Built AI software deployed firm-wide to automate discovery of stealth startups
- Sourced 100+ startups; led diligence contributing to 3 closed investments in the AI stack
- Supported \$1B+ Series B diligence for a frontier foundation model lab; received full-time return offer

Durin Ventures (Cambridge, MA) | *Co-Founder* | Sep 2024–Present

- Established thesis-driven defense tech initiative targeting Harvard/MIT research spinouts
- Built national security/defense advisor network; advisors include former U.S. Secretary of the Air Force and former Director of the CIA

Various Engineering/Startup Projects | *Founder & Full-Stack Developer* | Aug 2023–Present

- Bootstrapped SaaS products to \$20K ARR through organic marketing and rapid iteration
- Built LLM workflows (browser-use optimization engine; Agentic Web Interface search tool)

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Harvard College Student Body Treasurer | *Treasurer* | Feb 2025–Present

- Elected by undergraduate body to steward a \$700K budget across 400+ orgs with audited controls

Harvard College Debating Union | *Vice President* | Dec 2024–Present

- Manage \$150K budget; doubled revenue within 3 months via new tournaments and sponsorships

Global Platinum Securities (Cambridge, MA) | *Analyst* | Feb 2025–Present

- Selected as 1 of 2 Harvard analysts for a \$500K AUM intercollegiate fund
- Conduct fundamental research and thesis generation for long-only equity strategies

Harvard Financial Analysts | *Senior Investment Research Analyst* | Sep 2024–Present

- Present stock pitches and manage a \$100k L/S equities fund with a 27% 5-year IRR

JFK Jr. Forum Committee, Institute of Politics | *Committee Member* | Sep 2024–Present

- Staged high-profile events; interviewed and introduced Eric Schmidt, Lawrence H. Summers, Graham Allison

AWARDS

Stock Pitch Finalist (2x): Point72 National Case Competition; Citadel Case Competition (2nd Place, 2025)

Ranked #1 in U.S. Debate (NDCA 2023); TOC National Bid Leader (26 career bids)

Boys Nation Senator (CA), 1 of 2 selected from 1,000+ delegates at California Boys State (2023)

Cello Soloist, Carnegie Hall (2022)

INTERESTS

Cello • Philosophy • History • Film • Running