

YUYANG ZHAN

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EDUCATION

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Master of Applied Science in Data, Economics, and Design of Policy

Admitted

Not yet enrolled

Renmin University of China (RUC)

Bachelor of Economics, Majored in Labor Economics

09/2022 - 06/2026

GPA: 3.89/4.0, WES: 3.98 (ranked top 4% in cohort)

· Related courses:

Econ: Econometrics (100 in final exam), Intermediate Microeconomics (90+), Intermediate Macroeconomics (90+), Experimental and Behavioral Economics (90+), Game Theory, Public Economics (90+), Poverty and Inequality (90+), Labor Economics (90+), Economic Issues in Contemporary China (90+), Population and Family Economics (90+), Economics Writing (90+), Advanced Microeconomics (Ph.D. Level, Audit), Advanced Econometrics (Ph.D. Level, Audit)

Math: Statistics (90+), Calculus I (90+), Calculus II (Multivariable Calculus and ODE, 90), Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics (90), Linear Algebra (90), Functional Analysis (Audit), Mathematical Modeling

Programming: Machine Learning, Python Program Design, Application of ArcGIS to the economic research, Geographic Information System and Big Data

Psychology: Introduction to Psychology

Teaching Assistant: Intermediate Microeconomics (Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

MicroMasters Program in Data, Economics, and Design of Policy (MIT)

09/2024 - 12/2025

· Courses: Microeconomics (95), Data Analysis for Social Scientists (96), Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations (97), Foundations of Development Policy (98), Political Economy and Economic Development (93)

Oriel College, University of Oxford (International Summer Institute)

07/2024

· Courses: (3 credits) Microeconomics and Game Theory (91).

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Research and Innovation Scholarship (10,000 rmb, highest) RUC with JD.com, Inc., **2025**
- International Exchange Scholarship (10,000 rmb, highest) RUC, **2025**
- National Scholarship (10,000 rmb, highest) Ministry of Education of PRC, **2024**
- Merit Student RUC, **2023 - 2024**
- Excellent Scholarship RUC, **2023**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project: Bias in Ugandan Education System (Randomized Controlled Trial) **06/2025 - Present**

Research Assistant, with Prof. Yihong Huang (Peking University), Yuen Ho (Trinity College Dublin)

- Assisted in designing and implementing a randomized experiment **examining gender bias in Uganda's education system** using behavioral economics frameworks.
- Independently developed and programmed **Implicit Association Test (IAT)** using `iatgen` in **R** and **SurveyCTO** form definitions.

Project: Green Lands, Green Games: Strategic Land Supply and Booming Urban Greens in China

Independent Research

02/2025 - Present

- Examined how third-party management of urban environmental monitoring stations influences local government officials' land transferring decisions, and revealed that "green image projects" are a widespread phenomenon.
- Processed land data using **Python** and **ArcGIS**, with primary data analysis (using **DiD** and the **Event Study** method) conducted in **Stata**, and supplementary analyses performed in **R**.
- Developed an economic model grounded in the Monocentric City framework from urban economics.

Project: Employment Monitoring and Policy Simulation

04/2024 - 12/2024

Research Assistant, with Prof. Liqiu Zhao, Xiong Xiao et al.

(Affiliation: Bigdata and Responsible Artificial Intelligence for National Government, RUC)

- Designed and developed agent-based large language models (LLMs) to simulate the behavior of employees and employers in China's labor market, with a focus on analyzing their responses to policy shocks.
- Conducted descriptive statistics on China's labor market using **Stata** based on the 2015 mini-census dataset.
- Collaborated with Ph.D. researchers to apply economic-model-based prompt engineering for advanced analytics.

The 26th "Innovation Cup" Student Extracurricular Academic Technology Works Competition

First-prize Winner, First Author, Group Leader

03/2024

- **Project:** Can Low-carbon Transition Impact Labor Migration? Empirical Evidence from Low-carbon City Pilot
- Investigated the impact of Low-carbon City Policy on labor mobility and the underlying mechanism.
- Employed the Low-carbon City Pilot as a quasi-natural experiment and used the **staggered DiD** based on panel data from 286 prefecture-level cities in China (2007-2019).
- Planned the timeline and delegated tasks as the group leader.
- Contributed to the development of both empirical (**Stata**) and theoretical models, culminating in a comprehensive empirical paper (won first-prize award).

Project: the Equalization of Education in Beijing

10/2023 - 12/2023

Research Assistant, with Prof. Liqiu Zhao

RUC

- Examined the evolution of educational equality in Beijing over the past few decades and to offer insights to the government on strategies to further enhance this process.
- Used **Python** and **web crawler** to collect and organize data and utilized **ArcGIS** for data visualization and **Stata** to derive descriptive statistics, mapping the development of primary and secondary education of different districts of Beijing over the past twenty years.

Hua'an Futures Co., LTD

07/2023 - 08/2023

Researcher, Futures Research Institute

Hefei, China

- Conducted research on agricultural products.
- Presented an analysis based on USDA data and industry case studies. The research results were acknowledged by the company and applied to the development of corn futures strategy research.
- Be invited to share experience of video production with colleagues, providing a reference for the creation of futures promotional videos.

Field Study, "Qianrenbaicun" Social Survey

08/2023

Enumerator

Miaohoucun Village, Anhui Province

- Conducted field research in a poverty-stricken rural village (*Miaohoucun*), investigating local farmers' livelihood and production conditions to assess the current state of impoverished rural areas in China.
- Developed and administered at least four detailed survey questionnaires to multiple impoverished households, collecting data on income, infrastructure, health care, education, and other living conditions.
- Achieved publicity for the study: findings were covered by local media (link: *anhuinews*), raising awareness of the village's social and economic situation.

CAMPUS EXPERIENCE/LEADERSHIP

Youth RUC

10/2022 - 04/2024

Representative/Secretary, Video Department

RUC

- Oversaw the production of the recruitment video, which entails coordinating the writing of scripts, managing the involvement of personnel, and directing the editing process. Recruited 23 new members this year.
- Be responsible for the initial filming and all post-production editing of the video entitled *College Students' classes at 8 AM* (ranking third in historical views and second in likes on the platform).

Great Expectations Association of RUC (GEA)

09/2023 - 05/2024

Vice-president of Academic Development Department

RUC

- Assumed responsibility for the recruitment work of the club and served as the liaison for guest speakers of one of the lectures organized by the club.

SKILLS/HOBBIES

Programming Languages and Tools

Stata, L^AT_EX, ArcGIS, Python, R, SurveyCTO, C# (basic), Matlab (basic)
Chinese (native), English (fluent)

General interests

Piano and classical music, painting, sports (badminton, running, swimming, basketball, pickleball), video clip