

Raphael (Yuanhao) Zhang

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EDUCATION

University of California, Davis

Expected Spring 2027

B.A. in Economics; specialization in International Macro-Finance

Selected coursework: Econometrics, microeconomic and macroeconomic theory, calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, financial economics, and international economics.

RESEARCH & POLICY EXPERIENCE

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

Jun 2026–Present

Student Assistant

- Conduct independent research on California's cannabis market using econometric models and administrative data to estimate tax effects and forecast tax revenue.
- Support revenue estimates and policy recommendations concerning prediction markets, gasoline markets, and the potential tax-revenue effects of proposed ballot measures.

UC Davis Economics Department

Jan–Jun 2026

Research Assistant, Economic Narratives in Political Speech Project

- Built Python web-scraping and OCR pipelines to prepare international political-speech data for economic narrative analysis and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) workflows.

UC Davis Economics Department

Sep 2024–Sep 2025

Research Assistant, Global Price Initiative Project

- Used machine learning to extract historical newspaper price data; labeled and validated observations to support model improvement.
- Managed a large research database and analyzed economic trends.

National College Federal Reserve Challenge

Jun–Oct 2026

- Research monetary policy, inflation, economic indicators, and market conditions to develop and present recommendations for the federal funds rate.

LEADERSHIP & ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Voting Member, Council on Student Affairs and Fees

Sep 2024–Present

UC Davis, Vice Chancellor's Office

Review student fee proposals and provide feedback to university leadership to support transparent, accountable campus resource allocation.

Financial Aid Information Specialist Assistant

Apr 2024–Apr 2025

UC Davis Financial Aid Office

Assisted families with financial aid applications, handled sensitive documents, and supported system testing to improve student service.

Sustainable Development Goal Education Program

Jun–Sep 2024

United Nations & Association of Pacific Rim Universities; remote / Malaysia

Collaborated in an international program focused on intercultural communication, global citizenship, and team-based social innovation.

Tutor Leader, Meaningful Teens

Jun 2022–Jan 2023

Led volunteer tutor teams and managed online school operations serving under-resourced students.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Programming & tools: Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, L^AT_EX.

Research methods: Web scraping, OCR, data cleaning, API use, and LLM-assisted text analysis.

Software: Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Codex, Claude Code.

Languages: English, Mandarin, Cantonese.