

Junming Zhao

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US permanent resident (no sponsorship required) · Available 10–20 hrs/week, remote, Eastern Time

EDUCATION

Duke University, Pratt School of Engineering

Expected December 2027

Master of Engineering in Financial Technology. Coursework: Programming for FinTech (Python), Financial Technology, Financial Modeling and Asset Management, Decision Analytics, Technology Commercialization.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

May 2026

BA in Economics, minor in Statistics and Analytics. GPA 3.61/4.00; Dean's List 2024, 2025, 2026. Coursework: Data Science and Econometrics (R, Python), Financial Economics, Industrial Organization, Financial Accounting.

RESEARCH PROJECTS adamzhao.dev/projects

LedgerGym: a test range for AI bookkeeping agents

2026

- Built a simulator of complete company books (5 business types) with 15 planted reconciliation, fraud and prompt-injection problems, clean-twin controls, and a scorer built on the automation rate at 1% error; a rules baseline decides 96.5% of a month's items unattended with zero false alarms.

The \$150,000 Cliff: what loan guarantees do to lending

2026

- Analyzed 1.69M SBA 7(a) loans: bunching at the guarantee cutoff (replicating Bachas, Kim and Yannelis: elasticity 3.9 vs 4.6), regression discontinuity under manipulation, a competing-risks default model (out-of-time AUC 0.68 to 0.80) and a Monte Carlo stress test; found and removed a program-ceiling confound and a post-default data leak.

The Time Machine Problem: memory in AI forecasters

2026

- Built a point-in-time SEC XBRL warehouse (315 firms, 4.9M facts) with accounting-identity checks, and a likelihood-based memory test for language models with known training cutoffs (6,868 firm-quarters, 8 models).

EXPERIENCE

Youde Investment Management, Qingdao, China

May–Aug 2026

Financial and Strategy Analyst Intern

- Reconstructed RMB 265M (about USD 37M) of fund flows and shareholder transactions from two years of raw bank records: cleaned, de-duplicated and matched transfers across accounts, then mapped counterparties into a shareholder ledger that became key financial evidence in a corporate dispute.
- Built a regression model of office-property values and ran depreciation and downside scenarios on the firm's real-estate exposure, quantifying RMB 40M (about USD 5.6M) of potential losses for the strategy review.

ASTONE Consulting, Sunnyvale, CA

Jun–Aug 2025

Strategy Consulting Intern

- Built a CRM-enabled outreach workflow (segmented lead lists, email sequencing, LinkedIn touches, response tracking) for a Japanese enterprise-software client entering the US; online lead generation doubled over the engagement.
- Built risk-factor profiles of historical Japanese software entrants and current US prospects; roughly 10% overlap in key structural factors supported the market-entry recommendation.

KPMG, Risk Consulting, Beijing, China

Jun–Aug 2024

Risk Consulting Intern

- Co-developed a weighted-average investment risk index separating policy, market and execution factors, and applied it to overseas energy projects for four clients, including a USD 400M Brazil investment completed in 2025.
- Synthesized intellectual-property and workforce data into an internal-structure optimization for an energy client and presented the recommendations to client leadership.

EARLIER PROJECTS

Investment analytics: multi-asset ETF portfolio (team lead)

Jan–May 2026

- Managed a simulated USD 100K portfolio across 9 positions screened from 20 to 30 ETFs; rebalanced through the semester and finished 1st among participating teams.

Sports analytics: what drives UNC football wins (Python, R)

Sep–Dec 2025

- Merged 61 years of football, coaching and NFL data; benchmarked 7 models with 5-fold cross-validation; gradient boosting reached 64% out-of-sample accuracy.

SKILLS

Programming: Python (pandas, NumPy, statsmodels, matplotlib, Polars, DuckDB, pytest), R (tidyverse, caret), SQL

Methods: regression (OLS, logistic), gradient boosting, cross-validation, bunching estimation, regression discontinuity, survival analysis, scenario and downside analysis, portfolio analytics

Data and tools: Power BI, Excel financial modeling, web scraping, data cleaning and reconciliation

Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent)