# Wani Zhang

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## EDUCATION

**London Business School** — London, UK
Ph.D. in Management Science and Operations — Sept. 2022 – June 2027 (Expected)

**Carnegie Mellon University** — Pittsburgh, PA
B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, Concentration in Operations Research and Statistics — Aug. 2019 – May 2022
Minors in Computational Finance and Economics
GPA: 3.82/4.0 | Dean's List, High Honors | GRE: 331/340 (Quant: 170, Verbal: 161)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Empirical Researcher, London Business School** — Sept. 2022 – Present
- Defined and pursued a strategic research question evaluating how racial matching in foster placements impacts placement stability and permanency outcomes through rigorous statistical analysis
- Cleaned and analyzed complex longitudinal data (AFCARS 2008-2021) on 1 million+ children to derive actionable insights and evidence-based policy recommendations to enhance foster care practices and outcomes
- Engaged 10+ child welfare professionals through interviews to contextualize findings and ensure practical relevance
- Presented findings at 4 international conferences and authored a detailed research paper

**Teaching Assistant, London Business School** — Aug. 2023 – Present
- Supported instruction across graduate-level operations and analytics courses for Master's and Executive MBA students
- Created homework assignments, facilitated quantitative labs, and graded assessments for cohorts of 100+ students

**Undergraduate Researcher, Carnegie Mellon University** — June 2020 – Aug. 2022
- Collaborated with Community Data Roundtable, a non-profit organization, to improve child welfare and mental health
- Developed and implemented a mixed-integer linear programming model in Gurobi Python to optimize treatment assignments for children, prioritizing fairness and efficiency in resource allocation
- Analyzed historical data on 1,000+ patients to uncover relationships between patient needs, treatment methods, and health improvements, informing future treatment strategies and clinical decision-making

**Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University** — Aug. 2020 – May 2022
- Conducted weekly recitation sessions and office hours to support student learning; developed study materials; led exam review sessions; and graded assessments providing individualized feedback
- Received a teaching evaluation score of 4.91/5 in Differential Equations course (department average 4.30)

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

**Ph.D. Student Representative, London Business School** — July 2025 – Present
- Served as the primary liaison between 100+ Ph.D. students and the Ph.D. Committee, advocating for program improvements and ensuring student perspectives inform program policies and governance
- Planned and executed social events, such as the annual Christmas party, by managing budgets, vendor relationships, and logistics, fostering stronger connections and collaboration among the Ph.D. community

**Chair, CMU Asian Students Association** — Aug. 2021 – April 2022
- Directed the design and execution of visual elements for ASA's themed booth, part of an annual competition to conceptualize, design, and build immersive structures for CMU's Spring Carnival attended by 5,000+ people
- Created murals and painted panels that enhanced visitor engagement, contributing to the team's first-place achievement

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

**Computer Languages/Tools:** R, Stata, Python, Gurobi, R, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite, Tableau
**Skills:** data analysis, problem-solving, communication, leadership, empathy, time management, collaboration, adaptability
**Languages:** English (native), Chinese (fluent)
**Interests:** fitness, piano, boxing, badminton, chess, painting/drawing, cooking
**Certifications:** Level 3 Diploma in Personal Training, Level 2 Certificate in Gym Instructing