

# Rico Zhu

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University** | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

**New York, United States**

*Master of Arts in Economics*

Sept 2025 – (Expected) Dec 2026

- **Grades:** GPA: 4.0, Grades: 98% (Tentative and based on early assignments)
- **Courses:** Econometrics, Microeconomic Analysis, Macroeconomic Analysis
- **Courses tentative:** Financial Economics, Industrial Organization, Advanced Econometrics, Advanced Financial Economics

**University of Oxford** | Saïd Business School

**Oxford, United Kingdom**

*Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Economics and Management*

Oct 2021 – June 2025

- **Honors:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class Distinction in Year 1 final exams and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in Year 4 final exams
- **Courses:** Quantitative Economics, Finance, Accounting, Probability and Statistics, Public Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics Analysis, General Management, Economics of Industry
- **Awards:** Academic Progress Award Scholarship, Distinction, Open Scholarship (total awards worth £650)

## RESEARCH PROJECT

**Corporate Strategy & Performance: ByteDance M-Form Analysis**

**Feb 2025**

- Quantitatively justified ByteDance's 2021 shift to a profit-focused M-form by benchmarking efficiency: analysed 2020 data to reveal a Revenue Per Employee (RPE) of only \$227,000, representing a 60% deficit against benchmark rivals like Alibaba and Tencent, which then increased 96% post restructuring in 2022.
- Modelled the operational impact of the new structure on cost control and resource allocation, which mandated a 5,000-person redundancy and a pivot from overtime working and reckless hiring to better align with the new profit mandate.

**ESG Strategy & Financial Risk Analysis: TotalEnergies Decarbonization**

**Apr 2022**

- Analysed TotalEnergies' decarbonization strategy, quantifying a strategic misalignment between the target of reducing Scope 3 Oil emissions by 30% by 2025 and the projected >70% CAPEX allocation to fossil fuels through 2030.
- Assessed the financial and legal risks related to green accounting: modelled a hypothetical \$200/ton carbon price to project a 15% loss in the discounted present value of assets; synthesized legal challenges regarding "net-zero" claims.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**China International Capital Corporation CCMEIT Private Equity Fund**

**Beijing, China**

*Private Equity Summer Research Analyst*

June 2023 – Aug 2023

- Led internal memo drafting for CICC's partnership with BAIC regarding establishment for a new joint fund, valued at ¥300m.
- Independently prepared industry research, expert interview abstracts for live investment of ¥50m in Agel Tech Inc, analysed the profitability, p/l forecast, valuation and liquidity positions for the firm.
- Drafted more than 10 reports in relation to aerogel, wind & solar energy, chip industries by analysing the market sizing, industry leading position, macro trend via both quantitative and qualitative data analysis and expert interviews.
- Curated in-depth analysis of Lithium Carbonate future markets by analysing trend analysis, its spot price and indicative effect of future price movements; gained recognition from the senior leaders.

**Changjiang Securities**

**Shanghai, China**

*Research Summer Analyst, Light Industry Research Team*

Aug 2022 – Sep 2022

- Composed departmental daily reports through news run and financial reports of 20+ firms across pulp, paper and furniture industries.
- Led macro research on the pandemic impact on above-mentioned firms based on 10+ expert interviews and shareholders meetings; analysing correlations between property market price movements and furniture sales with insights widely accepted by the team.
- Updated the firm-wide weekly reports and industry newsletters by routinely maintaining the paper and pulp price database; demonstrated strong proficiency in Excel and Wind Financial Terminal.

**Guosen Securities**

**Shanghai, China**

*Investment Banking Summer Analyst, Equity Capital Markets*

Aug 2022

- Reviewed prospects of Bloom Tech Inc's potential 137m issuance, especially on its market overview.
- Independently prepared senior management's bank statements and company's transaction records as the only junior on the deal team for complying with the CSRC regulations.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Marketing Head of Becoming Student Global Association**

**Aug 2023 – May 2024**

- Independently devised the marketing plan for the year 2023 – 2024 for BSGA, outlining market research and performance monitoring methodologies, reforming organizational structure, and leading the recruiting process.

## SKILLS, ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

- **Languages:** Fluent in Mandarin and English (TOFEL: 120/120). Conversational in Japanese and Italian.
- **IT:** Stata, Python, R, Wind Financial Terminal, Microsoft Office, LaTeX.
- **Music:** Piano Grade 10. 14 years of experience and performed twice at Oxford New Year Gala. Learning drums.