

# Yuchen (Sylvie) Zhang

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## Education

### University of Pennsylvania

*Master of Computer and Information Technology (Computer Science)*

- Coursework: Artificial Intelligence, Data Structures and Algorithms

Expected May 2026

GPA: 3.9

### New York University

*Bachelor of Science in Media, Culture, and Communication*

May 2019

GPA: 3.9

## Professional Experience

### Patreon (18M monthly active users)

*Software Engineer Intern*

San Francisco, CA

May 2025 – Aug 2025

- Designed REST API endpoints with Python & SQLAlchemy to enable new bookmarking features across platforms
- Authored database migration for a new bookmarks table in MySQL, contributing to schema design discussions
- Optimized Android feed performance by upgrading cached pager, reducing network calls/user session by 0.4%
- Built bookmarks feed screen with local persistence and optimistic updates for 2.7M monthly active Android users
- Drove A/B experiment-based feature deployment, achieving +2.3% media engagement and +0.9% post views
- Led two internal testing sessions and technical documentation to solicit feedback from engineers, product and design, refining rollout strategy and longer-term feature plans

### Aware.ai (women's community app, early-stage startup)

*Software Engineer Intern*

New York, NY

Sep 2024 – Dec 2024

- Overhauled notification system by adding an AWS SQS queue with downstream Lambda consumers, and simplified upstream producer architecture by reducing 3 utility layers to 1 shared Lambda layer
- Introduced notification receipt parsing and error handling to notification delivery system, and managed schema migrations and versioning through Liquibase, which enabled 100% user engagement tracking
- Created REST API endpoints and technical documentations (Node.js, TypeScript, Postgres) for referral feature
- Enhanced stability of community screens using React Native, increasing session duration by ~1.5%
- Participated in product discussions with CEO and CTO to bootstrap key app features in an Agile environment

## Hackathons & Personal Projects

### PetFriendly ([Website](#) to find pet-friendly places)

Jun 2025 – Present

- Architected AWS serverless backend with PostgreSQL and REST APIs in Node.js and TypeScript
- Developed React web app that is mobile and desktop-friendly featuring interactive maps and user authentication
- Built an AI-powered data pipeline in Python with Gemini SDK to analyze sentiment and relevance of 8,000+ reviews, automatically seeding data from Google APIs into database

### Delphi (GirlHacks, [Demo](#))

Sep 2025

- Bootstrapped an app with 2 teammates to help blind/low-vision users capture and interpret their surroundings
- Developed a Python backend with MCP server integrating Gemini API for image-to-text processing and outputs
- Contributed to React Native frontend with accessibility features, text-to-speech, and camera integration

### TasksPlanner (Published on [iOS](#) & [Android](#))

Mar 2024 – Jul 2024

- Managed full software development lifecycle (SDLC) of cross-platform app from UX, implementation to publication
- Conducted 27 end-to-end user tests and exceeded 50+ downloads across iOS and Android platforms
- Designed a NoSQL schema and implemented authentication to enable persistent user data sync across sessions

### Cloud Journal App ([Link](#))

Sep 2024

- Built with AWS DynamoDB, Lambda, Node.js and integrated with Amplify for authentication, deployment, and CD

### Public Health Dataset Analyzer ([Link](#))

July 2024

- Deployed Object-Oriented Design to develop a command-line program for users to query datasets (CSV, JSON)
- Implemented a state machine (Java) to parse files over 260MB, optimizing speed to under 6 seconds

## Leadership

### CodePath, Mentor

Aug 2025 – Nov 2025

- Mentored two bootcamp students simultaneously through biweekly 1:1 check-ins, helping them build confidence, navigate resources, and develop effective study habits

## Skills

- **Languages:** Python, Java, Kotlin, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL
- **Backend:** REST APIs, AWS, Postgres, Node.js, Git, Docker, CI/CD, DevOps Tools (Sentry)
- **Frontend / Other:** Android, React, Cursor, Claude Code