

# **MUI** | Master of Urban Innovation



**STUDENT VIEWBOOK  
CLASS OF 2027**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>PROGRAM DETAILS</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>HOSTING AN INTERN</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>STUDENT PROFILES</b>	
<i>Rongqing (Jim) Cao</i>	07
<i>Arissa Daby</i>	08
<i>Dounia El Kojok</i>	09
<i>Huailun (Sabrina) Jiang</i>	10
<i>Zhuoxinran (Zoe) Li</i>	11
<i>Riyaaq Osman</i>	12
<i>Lauren Rondinelli</i>	13
<i>Nour Sbeih</i>	14
<i>Hillary Wall</i>	15
<i>Gary Wang</i>	16
<i>Yiwen (Matilda) Xie</i>	17
<i>Dylan Yu</i>	18
<i>Maya Bandakji</i>	19
<i>Alexia Cernat</i>	20
<i>Chris Zafirati</i>	21
<b>OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>23</b>

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Master of Urban Innovation (MUI) aims to educate and train the next generation of city builders and leaders. With a strong focus on urban economic development and governance, our program is uniquely designed to be interdisciplinary, integrating thought leadership and insights from urban studies, political science, geography, planning, public policy, management, and innovation systems.

Central to the MUI program is experiential learning, including providing our students with internship opportunities. Internships mark the start of our students' careers and professional journeys and provide students with real-world experience. To ensure our students are well prepared, we instill students with the knowledge, skills and training necessary to solve problems and contribute meaningfully in the workplace.

Our students are passionate about cities. They come from diverse backgrounds ranging from business and planning to urban studies and architecture. They have a strong desire to bring fresh, creative and innovative strategies, solutions and perspectives to pressing urban challenges.

We hope you will engage with the MUI program and our students and we look forward to working with you!



**Tara Vinodrai**  
Professor and Program Director  
Master of Urban Innovation  
Institute for Management & Innovation



# ABOUT US

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

We are proud to be one of the world's top research-intensive universities, bringing together top minds from every conceivable background and discipline to collaborate on the world's most pressing challenges.

Our community is a catalyst for discovery, innovation and progress, creating knowledge and solutions that make a tangible difference around the globe. And we prepare our students for success through an outstanding global education rooted in excellence, inclusion and close-knit learning communities.

Together, we continue to defy gravity by taking on what might seem unattainable today and generating the ideas and talent needed to build a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future.



## INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT & INNOVATION

The Institute for Management and Innovation inspires leaders to close the innovation gap through our six world-class master's programs and our research and innovation hubs.

Students thrive in our experiential learning environment, bolstered by powerful partnerships, our culture and values, and our connections within the University of Toronto ecosystem.

Studying at the Institute for Management and Innovation is unlike studying anywhere else. Our community is built on inclusivity and diversity of people, thought and experience. You'll be welcomed by a dedicated team of staff and faculty who are here to support your lifelong learning.

We inspire transformational thinking and collaboration, integrating people, place and purpose. Our students, faculty and researchers come together to build leaders and knowledge that harness innovation and apply it in ways that will create a positive impact for people and communities everywhere.

**We can help open the door to the world for you.**

# PROGRAM DETAILS

The MUI program offers unique, specialized and interdisciplinary graduate education and professional development for students with a strong interest in urban issues and economic development. We prepare our students to play a critical policy, practice and leadership role in implementing strategies that promote innovative, equitable and sustainable cities and city-regions. Our students are becoming specialized professionals who can help support this process across the public, business and not-for-profit sectors.

Graduates of the MUI program develop skills that appeal to many organizations concerned with innovation based economic development in the 21st century, including: municipal and regional governments; business and industry associations; community-based organizations; and industry partners.

## Academic Courses

Introduction to Management of Urban Innovation	Urban and Regional Economic Development Theory
Civic Engagement and Economic Development	Socially Sustainable Cities: Theory, Policy and Practice
Digital Cities	Urban Politics
Technology, Strategy & Policy	Economic Development Planning

## Professional Development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Allyship Certificate</li> <li>• Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Wellness Sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Innovators Panels</li> <li>• City Builders Cafe</li> <li>• Mock Interviews</li> <li>• Coffee Chat Day</li> <li>• Case Competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ArcGIS</li> <li>• Power BI</li> <li>• Tableau</li> <li>• RStudio</li> <li>• Policy Writing</li> <li>• Microsoft Excel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Communication</li> <li>• Conflict Resolution</li> <li>• Career Development Sessions</li> </ul>
---	---	---	--

# HOSTING AN INTERN

Our students are required to complete a 10-16 week internship (May-August). All internships are facilitated by the Placement & Employer Relations Manager and are fully supported by the MUI program.

## WHY PARTICIPATE?



### Fresh Perspectives

Our students learn from world-renowned professors and thought leaders. Their academic courses provide innovative perspectives that will add value to your projects, teams and organizations.



### Human Resources Support

We support you throughout the recruitment process. Our team will make it as easy as possible for you to find an intern that is the best fit for your organization and needs.



### Long-Term Recruitment

Internships are an excellent tool to identify talent and act as a pipeline for finding excellent full-time employees to grow your team at a low-risk. However, there is no obligation to hire our students on a full-time basis.



### Work Ready

Our students complete 60+ hours of professional development and skills training. Our professional development program includes comprehensive workshops led by experts and business leaders. This prepares our students to contribute immediately to your organization.



### Financial Support

Employers may be eligible for tax benefits and, in some cases, other government subsidies related to promoting innovation, sustainability and youth. We can help you identify other financial subsidies for which your organization may be qualified.





# RONGQING (JIM) CAO

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed the U of T Sustainability Scholar Certificate and Global Citizenship Certificate (GCC), demonstrating commitment to environmental policy and intercultural understanding
- Achieved Dean's List standing and graduated with Honors with Distinction, reflecting academic excellence across interdisciplinary studies
- Proficient in research and policy writing, GIS, and bilingual communication (English and Mandarin)

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Honors Bachelor of Arts – double major in Environmental Studies and City Studies, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Urban Land Use Policy Analysis Project – 1875 Steeles Ave W (2024)

- Evaluated neighborhood-level land use patterns and housing data to analyze equity and accessibility critically
- Applied GIS mapping and census data to identify policy implications aligned with the Provincial Planning Statement
- Presented findings linking sustainability, housing, and infrastructure planning

### Community Food Insecurity Solutions Project – University of Toronto (Capstone project, 2024)

- Conducted interdisciplinary research on food insecurity within Canada
- Analyzed consumer psychology through the deterioration curve to understand how food insecurity intensifies over time
- Proposed community-based solutions integrating innovative packaging, food-sharing networks, and social equity models
- Presented recommendations linking environmental justice and governance

### Campus Farm Volunteer – University of Toronto Scarborough (2023)

- Assisted in the design and maintenance of accessible growing spaces, including wheelchair-friendly plantation beds and educational demonstration plots
- Supported research and workshops that promoted sustainable urban agriculture and Indigenous land stewardship practices
- Collaborated with faculty and peers to connect farm operations with academic discussions on food policy, land use, and community well-being

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Enjoys exploring culinary arts and has competed in regional cooking competitions
- Actively participates in equestrian (dressage) events at the community level
- Enjoys fishing as a relaxing and mindful outdoor activity



# ARISSA DABY

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Passion for social sustainability through placemaking with Bachelor of Arts in City Studies and community engagement through my current position as the Environment and Sustainability program support
- Technical skills: MS office, Power BI, Excel
- Languages: English, French, Creole

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Honours Bachelor of Arts in City Studies and International Development, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Environment and Sustainability Program Support, University of Toronto Student Family Housing**

- Managed and delegated the operations of the housing clothing donation store on a weekly basis
- Organised and executed Sustainability and STEM day workshops for children and families between the ages of 2 to 14 years old
- Supported the operations of social community events such as Halloween haunted house design and function, fall festival markets, movie nights, games nights for housing members

### **Research Assistant, University of Toronto**

- Conducted field research on architectural housing forms between various neighbourhoods in Toronto
- Coordinated and compiled data with fellow research assistants and senior research assistants

### **Director of Marketing, Sponsorship, and Recruitment, UTSC Crimson Dragon Boat**

- Managed the social media platforms of the UTSC Crimson Dragon Boat team; managing content and media communications
- Managed correspondence with Canadian-based companies to form and negotiate sponsorship deals

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Dragon boat, travelling, content creation, sports challenges (CN tower climb for WWF)
- Volunteering: Mary's Meals Ambassador and Mauritius EU Youth Environmental Ambassador



# DOUNIA EL KOJOK

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strong foundation in architecture and design, with a deep interest in the urban scale
- Contributed to multiple design and research initiatives, including architecture competitions, community developments, and urban-scale projects
- Awarded scholarships from the University of Toronto and American University of Beirut for academic and overall achievements
- Technical proficiency in AutoCAD, Rhinoceros 3D, Enscape, Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office
- Fluent in English, French, and Arabic, with basic knowledge of Spanish

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Architecture and Design, American University of Beirut, Class of 2023

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Junior Architect, Nabil Gholam Architects

- Supported the design and execution of several residential and commercial projects in Abu Dhabi and Beirut
- Developed presentation materials and documentation for clients and stakeholders
- Collaborated with teams to produce architectural drawings and details

### Architectural Intern, Dar Al-Handasah

- Assisted in design and technical documentation for an airport project in Warsaw
- Conducted research on building codes and regulations to ensure compliance
- Coordinated with engineering teams to integrate and streamline project execution

### Architectural Intern, Khatib & Alami

- Supported on-site construction coordination and daily project activities at the MEA Green Office building site
- Reviewed drawings and material submittals for compliance with specifications
- Assisted senior architects and engineers in ensuring project quality and timelines

### Regional Architecture and Surveying, American University of Beirut

- Conducted a comprehensive survey of a historical building, documenting typology and construction methods
- Produced technical drawings and research reports to support analysis

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Reading, art, architecture, cinema, traveling, discovering new cultures, cooking, and nature walks



# HUAILUN (SABRINA) JIANG

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Grounded in Human Geography (B.A.) and a GIS minor, integrating spatial data analysis with urban planning issues; possesses a strong interest in planning practices and related topics
- Proficient in ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, Jupyter Notebook, and Visual Studio Code to process quantitative and qualitative geospatial data; experienced in Python and skilled at turning analyses into clear, decision-ready visualizations
- Coordinates outreach and logistics for community engagement and event delivery for museums and nonprofits

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Spatial Analysis Project — COVID-19 & Healthcare Access, University of Toronto**

- Cleaned and merged municipal datasets (COVID counts, demographics, clinics) using GeoPandas/Python; built neighborhood-level indicators (e.g., cases per 100k)
- Produced choropleth maps and a concise policy brief linking socioeconomic variables to service access, informing equity-focused resource allocation

### **Multimodal Access Web Map (Transit & Bike Network), University of Toronto**

- Designed a public-facing web map showing TTC routes/stations and bikeways, highlighting neighbourhood-level access to key amenities
- Implemented clear symbology, pop-ups, and filters to compare convenience and gaps by area; documented recommendations for active transportation improvements

### **Food Bank Event Planner, University of Toronto**

- Spearheaded strategy development and implementation for university food bank, resulting in 10% monthly increase in donations through targeted market research and needs assessment
- Coordinated weekly distribution of 50 kilograms of fresh produce to homeless persons, optimizing resource allocation and enhancing operational efficiency among volunteers
- Executed 4 monthly community service events to provide essential support to 100+ homeless persons per event

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Dance, ski, baking, badminton, hiking
- Learning Korean



# ZHUOXINRAN (ZOE) LI

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Demonstrated passion for city planning with courses in Urban Studies at Concordia University, then expanded understanding of and dealing with urban patterns with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography, and a double minor in Environmental Studies and GIS at the University of Toronto
- Extensive experience working with qualitative and quantitative data using Python, SQL, R, Excel and Power BI and presenting reports using PowerPoint and Canvas

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography, Minor in Environmental Studies and GIS, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Capstone Project Consultant, Toronto Senior Housing Corporation

- Conducted in-depth tenant interviews and site visits at five locations, systematically identifying onboarding challenges affecting senior residents
- Designed multilingual forms and simplified logbooks to mitigate onboarding barriers, enhancing accessibility and usability for senior tenants
- Utilized a structured Pugh Method decision matrix to evaluate peer-led, staff-led, and hybrid volunteer models, recommending the hybrid model as the most sustainable and scalable
- Delivered final presentation to TSHC staff, providing actionable recommendations that reduced entry barriers and strengthened long-term tenant engagement, receiving positive feedback

### Student GIS Research Associate, Esri Canada GIS Centers of Excellence (ECCE)

- Integrated 585 Toronto census tracts with diverse socio-economic and infrastructure indicators, including LIM-AT%, high-rise residents %, employment hubs, EV ownership rates, and DC fast & Level 2 charger availability, to create a comprehensive dataset for analysis
- Managed end-to-end development of the web application using ArcGIS Experience Builder, including interface design, data visualization, and interactive mapping for user-friendly insights
- Produced and edited high-quality project videos to clearly communicate methodology, analysis, and recommendations to stakeholders, enhancing engagement and understanding
- Computed tract-level EV demand, flagged 9 GO stations lacking chargers, and delivered decision-ready siting briefs adopted at the showcase

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Photography, Drawing, Social Topic Movies, Baking, Bartending, Hiking, Tennis
- Continue learning analytical methods for urban resilience and multi-hazard risk, centering aging and disability justice



# RIYAAQ OSMAN

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Experience supporting research, report preparation, and project coordination in multidisciplinary teams
- Conducting a social sustainability study of a Toronto neighbourhood, analyzing Statistics Canada data, official plans, and zoning by-laws to address gentrification and equity
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite with strong skills in communication and stakeholder engagement
- Published an article on youth equity in Toronto, showcasing strong research, writing, and advocacy skills
- Interested in advancing inclusive and sustainable urban development through collaborative planning and policy work

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation (MUI), University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science and Linguistics, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate Media Assistant (Work Study)

- Developed reports, presentations, and communications materials for internal and external audiences.
- Supported planning research and report development for a university-led conference. Coordinated a multidisciplinary team, managed event logistics, and created presentations for internal and external audiences
- Used Excel and digital planning tools for project tracking and progress reporting

### Intern - Canadian Black Music Archives

- Developed skills transferable to urban planning research, including data analysis, writing, and multidisciplinary coordination
- Helped launch a website by writing content for multiple biographies and conducted historical research to support content creation for digital archives
- Formatted content to adhere to industry-specific style guides
- Multi-tasked across multiple functions and roles to meet deadlines and organizational expectations

### Volunteer - West Park Healthcare Centre

- Assisted Speech-Language Pathologists in patient care and feeding programs
- Managed administrative systems and client inquiries, enhancing coordination across departments and supporting inclusive service delivery

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Learning GIS through the University of Toronto's "Introduction to GIS Mapping" course, focusing on spatial analysis and mapping tools
- Writing (Journal and Creative), Music, Community Involvement



# LAUREN RONDINELLI

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Graduated University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree with Distinction, Issued by University of Toronto - June 2025
- Completed an internship with HousingNowTO, which focused on three government-owned sites in the City of Toronto: Arbo Downsview, Lawrence East, and Parcel 8 at Ookwemin Minising (formerly known as Villiers Island)
- The main specialization for the project was the social, economic, demographic and legal analysis

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Minor in Human Geography and Minor in Urban Studies, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Research Assistant, HousingNowTO Internship, September 2024 - April 2025**

- Provided research and analysis relating to the repurposing of a surplus land site. The research project focused on affordable housing choices that incorporate social justice, equity, and the environment

### **Wellness Volunteer, Woodsworth College Students' Association, August 2024**

- Promoted and supported wellness-based activities as an Ambassador of the Office of the Dean of Students during Orientation Week, 2024

### **Work Study Student at the University of Toronto, Operations Assistant, September 2023 - August 2024**

- Acted as a first point of contact for inquiries regarding caretaking and lost and found, and assisted with various projects such as the creation of databases to support caretaking operations (operational assignments, building, and staff and shift queries)

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Travelling, Exploring New Cities, Dancing, Listening to Music, Cooking/Baking
- Trying New Restaurants in the City



# NOUR SBEIH

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with Distinction in Environment and Urban Sustainability with a Minor in Social Innovation from Toronto Metropolitan University
- Extensive experience in quantitative and qualitative data analysis using Excel and RStudio and the collection of primary and archived urban environmental data to composing research papers, and effectively communicating and presenting monitored findings
- Deeply passionate about community development and agency-driven incentives that promote sustainable, inclusive, equitable, diverse, and innovative city spaces

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Environment and Urban Sustainability, Minor in Social Innovation, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Youth Advisor, National Youth Action Council at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

- Participate in conference, research, and planning projects to provide feedback on the content and design of a digital therapy application, focused on dialectical behaviour therapy for Clinical High Risk (CHR) youth
- Work with a team of interdisciplinary youth on creating solution-focused ideas and opportunities

### **Public Transportation and Air Quality Scientific Research Paper**

- Developed a research question, testable hypothesis, study design, methodology, data visualization, analysis, and interpretation of primary data of particulate matter pollution emitted by public transportation vehicles in Toronto
- Earned an A mark as a result of a high-quality paper

### **Brampton in Motion Symposium**

- Attended Brampton Board of Trade's second annual symposium for the Transportation WhitePaper Presentation, focused on the future of the City of Brampton infrastructure, housing, and transportation development in creating a safe, sustainable, and innovative city
- Networked with other key stakeholders, attendees and speakers, learning for individuals' experiences and asking questions as required

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Art, music, and skateboarding



# HILLARY WALL

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Graduated Cum Laude from St. Mary's College of Maryland and member of Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha
- Non-profit professional with over a decade of experience, specializing in volunteer management and program coordination
- Accomplished public speaker with a proven ability to build and maintain strong relationships with diverse stakeholders, including community groups and corporate partners
- Extended experience working with funders, grassroots organizations and government to engage communities and build better cities

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in History, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Class of 2013

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Program Coordinator, Rock the Street, Wall Street**

- Orchestrated successful execution of financial and investment literacy programs in 15 high schools in the U.S. and the U.K., promoting gender and racial equity
- Managed program goals, scope, schedules, and resources, providing monthly reports on quality metrics and analysis to internal and external stakeholders
- Maintained program quality and effectiveness, implementing quality control measures, and fostering open communication channels to enhance participant engagement and overall impact

### **Salvage Coordinator, Maryland Food Bank**

- Organized and managed daily volunteer events in the warehouse
- Assessed the needs of multiple departments, planning volunteer projects accordingly
- Oversaw processing and packaging of donated dry and canned products
- Expanded volunteer engagement with development of new volunteer roles and opportunities

### **Service Project Coordinator, Break a Difference**

- Developed and organized volunteer events for corporate partners
- Coordinated with local non-profit partners to identify their areas of need
- Assembled necessary project supplies, created instruction manuals for volunteer projects
- Provided day-of support for Volunteer Coordinators

### **Operations Manager, Civic Leadership Institute**

- Provided comprehensive operational and administrative support for daily activities, academic and residential life programs

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Baking, woodworking and volunteering



# GARY WANG

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Demonstrated passion for city building and policymaking with Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Public Policy
- Developed research and presentation skills by writing reports, briefing notes, using Excel, and presenting findings using PowerPoint
- Refined communication and collaboration skills through group presentations, class discussions, and projects

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto Mississauga, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Public Policy, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Project Assistant: Research and Data Management, University of Toronto Scarborough**

- Researched and found over 200 Black faculty members and those with backgrounds in Black studies in the top 100 American universities and added names and contact information to an Excel database for future recruitment purposes
- Worked toward helping the University of Toronto Scarborough meet their diversity threshold by recruiting 44 Black faculty members by 2027

### **IT Support Assistant, PORTICO Community Church**

- Documented over 1000 documents across Microsoft SharePoint and Reverb to ClickUp for document retention purposes
- Created an IT best practices document in ClickUp outlining cybersecurity and measures to increase efficiency (naming conventions, folder usage, etc.) and developed writing skills when creating shortened versions in Canva for ease of access
- Gained problem-solving skills by setting up 5 workstations for other summer interns and creating purchase lists for items that were needed to complete setups. Also developed critical thinking skills when diagnosing and fixing hardware-related issues such as printer malfunctions and computer crashes

### **Volunteer, Campfire Circle**

- Built leadership skills through working with families and children at family camp and kids' overnight sessions
- Learned how to work with others as well as being attentive to details while managing the campers through various day-to-day activities (meal times, activity rotations, cabin time, etc.)

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Video Games, Paddleboarding, Camping



# YIWEN (MATILDA) XIE

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- GIS and Spatial Analysis: Proficient in ArcGIS, QGIS, and remote sensing tools for mapping, data cleaning, and spatial correlation analysis
- Data Analytics and Visualization: Skilled in Excel, Power BI, and Python/R for quantitative and qualitative analysis, producing clear, visual reports for both academic and applied projects
- Policy and Research Writing: Experienced in writing policy briefs, research summaries, and analytical reports connecting evidence-based insights to urban and economic development implications
- Project Coordination and Communication: Demonstrated ability to collaborate across teams, manage timelines, and deliver presentations effectively

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto Mississauga, Class of 2027
- Honours Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto, Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Data Analysis Assistant, China WeiGu Medical Technology Co

- Automated monthly reports and dashboards, cutting manual processing ~12% and improving on-time delivery
- Analyzed environmental lab datasets and presented decision-ready insights for management resource allocation (>¥5,000 saved)
- Collaborated across teams to clarify requirements and maintain audit-ready documentation

### Resources Placement, Canton BaiRen Medical Equipment Co

- Conducted spatial and network analysis to optimize Emergency Medical Services coverage and inform hospital/lab siting by density and accessibility
- Coordinated vendors on delivery timelines and specs, supported procurement documentation and compliance checks
- Consolidated operational data to track utilization of medical devices and recommend placement adjustments

### Independent GIS & Web Projects (Course/Personal)

- Built GIS layers and maps on COVID-19 and household income across Canadian CMAs
- Developed the "Newcomer's Guide to Toronto" website (HTML/CSS/JS): multi-page information architecture, data aggregation, and simple UI
- Executed NDVI provincial comparison to evaluate greenness trends, documented methods and limitations for reproducibility

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Enjoys singing, dancing, and playing volleyball. In her spare time, she loves exploring local restaurants and hidden shops as a social media content creator, sharing city stories through photos and short videos



# DYLAN YU

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Synthesized complex spatial and policy data into actionable insights for infrastructure and climate justice projects, demonstrating strong ability to connect technical analysis with community focused outcomes
- Excelled in cross cultural collaboration and executive communication, presenting strategic recommendations to senior leadership and government partners
- Technical skills: MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), R Studio, ArcGIS
- Trilingual (English, Cantonese, Mandarin), proven ability to tailor narratives for impact across different cultural contexts
- Awarded MUI Entrance Scholarship for academic and overall achievements

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation – University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts: Honours in Environment and Society, Minor in Sustainability – McMaster University, Class of 2024
- Certificate in Urban Studies and Planning, McMaster University 2024
- Certificate in Business Studies, McMaster University 2024

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Summer Intern, Programme Management Office (Racing) – The Hong Kong Jockey Club**

- Analyzed racing operations and infrastructure planning, contributed to long term planning for Conghua Racecourse
- Formulated operational recommendations and presented findings to senior leadership team
- Collaborated across departments and liaised with government agencies to align development goals

### **Climate Justice Framework Research Student – CityLAB, City of Hamilton**

- Investigated climate justice frameworks and surveyed municipal sustainability priorities
- Collected and interpreted data to support environmental policy development and community engagement strategies

### **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant – McMaster University**

- Guided student learning in urban development and population studies
- Facilitated student learning of core concepts and assessed coursework for a cohort of 50 students
- Communicated feedback and supported academic growth through one-on-one engagement

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Being in nature – whether it's a quiet forest trail or breezy lakeside lookout
- Keen on cooking up new dishes and experimenting with flavours from around the world



# MAYA BANDAKJI

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Experienced in driving civic engagement by leading community sustainability workshops for Global Sustainable Foods (GSF) alongside partners like the City of Mississauga, PlazaPOPS, the University of Toronto Mississauga, and Sheridan College
- Technical proficiency in executing design projects in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, ArcGIS, Canva, Rhino, AutoCAD, and Excel
- Entrepreneurially driven designer that helps businesses scale through strong brand identity using UX/UI and media content strategies for non-profits like GSF, the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee, and cultural/social events like Qahwa FM

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto Mississauga Class of 2027
- HBA in Architectural Studies at the University of Toronto

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Team Lead Supervisor — Suzy Shier (Jan 2024–Present)

- Supervised and trained team members to ensure store operations run efficiently
- Fostered a positive, inclusive environment by mentoring new staff and guiding them through digital systems, safety procedures, and customer care protocols

### Digital Content & Outreach Coordinator — Global Sustainable Foods (2024–Present)

- Produced and curated media content strategies that converted online engagement with tangible community turnout
- Coordinated and led sustainability workshops aligned with GSF's mission and values in collaboration with the City of Mississauga and the University of Toronto, resulting in additional civic engagement opportunities for the community

### Secretary of Sales Department — Scarborough Toyota (April–Sept 2023)

- Facilitated smooth communication across finance and sales teams, ensuring accurate communication of client data, lead tracking, and conversion rates demonstrating strong teamwork and leadership in fast-paced environments
- Managed client data portals and lead tracking systems (ERA-IGNITE, VinSolutions, Excel) to enhance sales pipeline visibility and conversion rates

### Receptionist and Membership Advisor – LA Fitness (April–Oct 2022)

- Contributed to team goals by converting cold leads into sales, resulting in an increase in the facility's client base
- Conducted daily safety and equipment checks, including monitoring pool pH levels and maintaining accurate health and safety records

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Curating tailored content for organizations wanting to achieve strong brand identity
- Loves a cozy fall evening and a good Harry Potter rewatch marathon



# ALEXIA CERNAT

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Seasoned event planner with 4 years of work experience in the corporate and live music event planning and communications industry
- Experience in project management, cross-functional team management, creative problem solving, marketing, and knowledge of sustainable business development and policy
- Experienced with qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, and presentations
- Quadrilingual (English, French, Romanian, Spanish)
- Technical skills: MS Office, R programming language, and social media (Instagram, LinkedIn)

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto Mississauga, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts, McGill University, Class of 2024

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Events Experience Coordinator - Deloitte, Montreal

- Managed end-to-end event coordination for all corporate events at the Montreal flagship office.
- Coordinated all event logistics, including timelines, vendor sourcing & contracts, budgets, resource allocation, menu creation, audiovisual support, and event registration
- Led weekly meetings with clients, bookings team, and internal catering team
- Provided on-site support for an average of 5 complex and highly complex events per month in delivering distinct Deloitte brand experiences to clients

### Studentmart: Project MGPO 438: Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation, McGill University

- Led a 4-person team in the development of Studentmart: an on-campus and student-operated grocery store selling ugly and soon-to-expire products at a reduced price to combat food insecurity among students
- Conducted market research, user testing, prototyping, and feedback analysis in the design thinking process to create an initiative that alleviates food insecurity in the McGill-Downtown community

### Research Project - Female Political Representation and Reported Crime in India, McGill University

- Conducted a research study examining the correlation between increased female political representation in India and the subsequent number of reported crimes committed against women
- Performed data analysis using bivariate and multivariate regression models and presented statistical findings to a panel of students and faculty

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Live events and festivals, traveling, cooking, and discovering new restaurants



# CHRIS ZAFIRATI

## SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Pivoted towards significant city and urban academic interest in 4th and 5th year of undergraduate studies. Further compounded with enrollment in UofT's MUI program
- Extensive research and writing experience through significant volume of research papers within a social-sciences program
- Demonstrated experience working in groups and in time management gained while competing in various extra-curricular activities while enrolled in full-time academic studies
- Significant interpersonal, collaborative, and communication skills
- Substantial MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint) and Adobe CC (Lightroom, Photoshop) experience

## EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2027
- Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Governance, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), Class of 2025

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### Social Sustainability Study

- Conducted a social sustainability study of North Riverdale, critically examining publicly-available data, neighborhood design, and relevant factors to critically evaluate North Riverdale's social sustainability and propose measures to be taken

### Essay on Toronto's Gridlock

- Researched and composed an essay detailing the crisis of Toronto's traffic congestion and proposed solutions to mitigate traffic congestion and expand alternative methods to driving

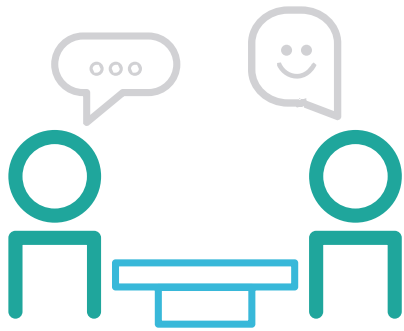
### UofT Policython 2023

- Collaborating in a group of students, we had to compose a policy brief for what a Canadian response to Iranian human rights abuses should look like under a strict 62-hour deadline. Although our prompt was not the winner, effective delegation of research, group collaboration, and writing were all required to meet the challenge

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Dragon Boat, (aviation) photography, Books, Video games, Art, TTRPGs

# OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



**Mock Interviews**



**Guest Speaker**



**Networking Events**



**Capstone Projects**



**Field Trip**



**Coffee Chats**

# CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION



## Tara Vinodrai

**Professor and Program Director**  
Master of Urban Innovation  
Institute for Management & Innovation  
[tara.vinodrai@utoronto.ca](mailto:tara.vinodrai@utoronto.ca)

## Natasha Walli

**Placement & Employer Relations Manager**  
Master of Urban Innovation  
Institute for Management & Innovation  
[natasha.walli@utoronto.ca](mailto:natasha.walli@utoronto.ca)





[uoft.me/MUI](https://uoft.me/MUI)

**MUI** | Master of  
Urban Innovation  
University of Toronto



Institute for Management & Innovation  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
MISSISSAUGA