Mei-Lin Zhao

Graduate Research Assistant | Data Science Intern

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Data scientist with a master's in statistics, a summer internship in retail demand forecasting and a thesis on survival models for customer churn. Writes clean Python and SQL, explains model trade-offs to non-technical teams and cares about whether a model is actually used. Looking for a first full-time role in forecasting or product analytics.

EXPERIENCE & PROJECTS

Department of Statistical Sciences, Harbourview University · Toronto, ON **Sep 2024 — Apr 2026**

Graduate Research Assistant

- Developed survival models in R for subscription churn using anonymized partner data, and wrote the analysis chapter of a co-authored working paper.
- Taught weekly tutorials for an introductory regression course of 90 students, preparing code examples and grading assignments.

Trillium Grocers · Toronto, ON **May 2025 — Aug 2025**

Data Science Intern

- Built a gradient boosting model to forecast weekly demand for fresh produce at 40 stores, outperforming the existing moving-average baseline on backtests.
- Wrote Snowflake SQL pipelines for weather and promotion features, documenting each so the analytics team could maintain them after the internship.
- Presented results to category managers with a Tableau view of forecast error by store, which they used to pilot new ordering rules at six locations.

Transit ridership forecasting (public GitHub repository)

- Forecast daily subway ridership from open data with Prophet and gradient boosting, comparing methods in a reproducible notebook with clear evaluation and limitations.

EDUCATION

MSc, Statistics **2026**

Harbourview University

BSc, Mathematics **2024**

Northern Lakes University

SKILLS

Technical: Python, SQL, R, pandas, scikit-learn, XGBoost, Time series forecasting, Survival analysis, A/B testing, Tableau, Git, Snowflake