STIVI CANKA

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EDUCATION

Sep 2021 – Apr 2024 — Halifax, NS
Dalhousie University
BA (Honors) in Economics, Double-Minor in Mathematics & Business; ***GPA: 4.27/4.30***
- *Coursework*: Statistics, Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations, Econometrics
- *Leadership:* Founded Dalhousie's first Quantitative Finance Society; grew to membership to 50+ students within one semester through case competitions and workshops on portfolio theory, derivatives, and algorithmic trading
- *Awards & Scholarships:* University Medal in Economics (Top Graduate, Class of 2024), Best Economics Research Paper Award (2024), Douglas C. Mackay Award for Excellence in Money Management (2024), Professor W. Russell Maxwell Memorial Scholarship (2024), Bank of Canada Governor's Challenge Runner-up (26 universities, 2023), Marjorie F. Ellis Scholarship (2023), CFA Institute Scholarship (2023)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jun 2024 – Aug 2025 — Toronto, ON
KPMG | *Technology Risk Consultant*
- Conducted enterprise risk assessment for a Top 5 Canadian pension fund ($250B+ AUM); findings directly drove enterprise risk framework overhaul and development of new operational risk mitigation strategies
- Developed Python analytics tool to detect access control violations across 100K+ user logs; identified unauthorized privilege escalations and untimely access removals, reducing review time from 3 days to under 3 hours
- Built ETL pipelines feeding Power BI dashboards that visualized risk exposure across 30+ control domains; identified $2M+ in potential operational risk reduction, informing executive remediation priorities

May 2023 – Aug 2023 — Toronto, ON
TD Bank | *Market Risk & Model Development Summer Associate*
- Monitored market risk exposure across $2B+ multi-asset portfolios using VaR analysis, Monte Carlo simulations, stress testing, and sensitivity analysis; flagged positions that exceeded risk limits, prompting portfolio rebalancing
- Streamlined data extraction, transformation, and analysis by automating risk reporting workflows in Python and Excel VBA; reduced monthly reporting cycle by 75%, enabling faster response to market volatility
- Validated risk models through back-testing against historical data; detected systematic underestimation of portfolio risk during volatile markets that led to parameter adjustments and model assumption recalibration

Apr 2022 – Aug 2022 — Moncton, NB
TD Bank | *Finance Operations Intern*
- Built and maintained financial data pipelines using SQL, Python, and Excel VBA across business units representing $500M+ in annual revenue; designed automated validation frameworks that eliminated manual data verification
- Prepared 15+ quarterly financial statements (P&L, cash flow, MD&A) for executive decision-making; streamlined consolidation process by standardizing data templates across 8 business units

Sep 2022 – Apr 2024 — Halifax, NS
Dalhousie University | *Teaching Assistant & Academic Mentor*
- Led review sessions, graded assignments, and held office hours for 250+ students across four economics courses
- Provided one-on-one tutoring for students in mathematics and statistics courses at the Student Success Center

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sep 2023 – Apr 2024 — Halifax, NS
Dalhousie University | *Undergraduate Honours Thesis (Supervisor: Dr. Christos Ntantamis)*
Title: *Shifting Macroeconomic Tides: Investigating the Impact of Interest Rate Uncertainty on the Canadian Economy*
- Built Python pipeline to process 15,000+ daily T-bill return observations and developed novel market-based uncertainty metric from return volatility, addressing limitations of survey-based and keyword-frequency proxies
- Implemented six VAR-X econometric models in Gretl and R to quantify the impact of interest rate uncertainty on key macroeconomic variables; found statistically significant negative effects on GDP and investment

Sep 2022 – Nov 2023 — Halifax, NS
Bank of Canada Governor's Challenge | *Team Lead (Supervisor: Dr. James McNeil)*
- Led team to runner-up finish in national economics competition; developed 24-month VAR(2) model analyzing CPI decomposition, labor market trends, and inflation expectations to assess monetary policy transmission mechanisms
- Designed risk scenarios integrating household debt stress and energy shocks; synthesized forecasts with Bloomberg Terminal and Statistics Canada data and presented policy recommendations to panel of Bank of Canada economists

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

May 2023 – Present — Online
Albanian Trailblazers | *Founder & President*
- Founded youth-led NGO connecting Albanian students globally; scaled organization to 30+ mentors and 90+ mentees in 20+ countries through mentorship programs, professional workshops, and networking events
- Currently developing *Qemal*, one of the first Albanian-language RAG LLM chatbots (Python, LangChain, Chroma DB) to democratize access to educational guidance for Albanian students from low-income backgrounds

TECHNICAL SKILLS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Programming: Python (NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn, LangChain), SQL, R, MATLAB, Julia, Stata, VBA, Gretl, LaTeX

Software & Tools: Git/GitHub, Bloomberg Terminal, Jupyter, Power BI, Excel (advanced modeling)

Methods: OLS/GLS/WLS Estimation, Time Series Analysis (VAR, ARIMA), Monte Carlo Simulation, Supervised, Unsupervised, & Reinforcement Learning, Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Certifications: Machine Learning Specialization (Stanford), Algorithms Specialization (Stanford), MITx 6.00.1x: Introduction to Computer Science and Programming Using Python (MIT), FinTech & Financial Innovation Certificate (Dalhousie)

Languages: Albanian (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)

Interests: Football, Racing (Gran Turismo 7, Formula 1), Mixed Martial Arts, Travel (21 countries)