DAVE (DINGHAN) ZHANG

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EDUCATION

University of Bristol Bristol, UK
BSc Education Studies Sep 2024 – Jul 2027

- **Academic Excellence: On track to achieve a First-Class degree, with overall averages of 81% in Year 1 and 78% in Year 2.**
- Head of School's Commendation: Received the Head of School's Commendation for Academic Excellence following Year 1 in recognition of achieving an overall average mark of 70 or above.
- Interdisciplinary Foundation: Developed a strong grounding in educational theory, research methods and the social contexts of education, supporting a growing interest in quantitative, data-informed approaches to social and educational research.
- Technical Skills: Python, Docker, SPSS, AI-assisted development, data processing and visualisation, Adobe Audition, video editing, Microsoft Office and WeChat Official Account management.

University of Bristol Bristol, UK
International Foundation Programme Sep 2023 – May 2024

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

How Has My Research Placement Developed My Understanding of Scaffolding, Co-navigation and Learner Autonomy in Higher-Education Supervision? Bristol, UK
University of Bristol, School of Education | Undergraduate Research Placement Oct 2025 – Apr 2026

- Quantitative Educational Research: Investigated the relationship between food insecurity and education among students, using SPSS to analyse quantitative data and identify patterns with implications for educational and social inequality.
- Methodological Decision-Making: Explored Python as an alternative tool for data analysis and developed an initial proposal for a food-insecurity prediction programme; critically evaluated its feasibility and selected methods according to their suitability rather than technical complexity.
- Theory-Informed Reflection: Applied scaffolding theory, Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development and concepts of reflective practice to examine how dialogue, trust and the gradual transfer of responsibility can foster learner autonomy within higher-education research supervision.

WORK AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

University of Bristol, School of Education Bristol, UK
Research Support Assistant (Level 1) Jun 2026 – Present

- Educational Data Infrastructure: Develop an interactive website for a harmonised, multi-source dataset on educational inequality, transforming complex data into an accessible digital research resource for academic and public audiences.
- Data Visualisation and Accessibility: Design filtering, comparison and map-based visualisations that enable users to explore patterns by country, year and population group, making comparative educational research more intuitive and transparent.
- Research-Led Technical Development: Use Python and Docker to build and test a local prototype, translating researchers' requirements into functional tools and applying AI-assisted development to refine usability, interactions and the foundations for future open-access deployment.

University of Bristol, School of Education Bristol, UK
Undergraduate Research Assistant Oct 2025 – Apr 2026

- Quantitative Education Research: Collaborated with academic supervisors on a project examining the relationship between food insecurity and educational outcomes, contributing to the research design, literature review and analytical approach.
- Statistical and Data Analysis: Used SPSS to conduct statistical analysis and Python to process, clean and explore educational data, identifying patterns relevant to inequality and students' educational experiences.
- Evidence Synthesis: Integrated findings from academic literature and quantitative analysis into clear, evidence-based insights that informed the project's direction and interpretation of results.

Junde Education Chengdu, China
Course Assistant Jul 2024 – Aug 2024

- Curriculum and Lesson Support: Assisted with the planning and delivery of extracurricular courses, helping to design structured, engaging learning activities responsive to students' learning needs.
- Assessment and Individualised Feedback: Managed student activities and provided tailored feedback on assessments, supporting learners in recognising areas for improvement and making academic progress.
- Student Well-being and Communication: Monitored students' well-being in classroom and accommodation settings and facilitated communication among teachers, students and parents to support a safe and cohesive educational experience.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Harvard Summit for Young Leaders in China (HSYLC), Shanghai High School Shanghai, China
Volunteer Teaching Fellow Jul 2026 – Aug 2026

- Bilingual Educational Facilitation: Served as a bilingual liaison among Seminar Leaders, students, staff and volunteers in an English-medium programme, communicating course requirements, student feedback and operational needs across English and Chinese.
- Student Support and Inclusion: Provided academic and pastoral support while monitoring students' well-being, safety and conduct, helping to maintain an inclusive and supportive learning environment.
- Programme and Community Coordination: Collaborated with Teaching Fellows, Event Assistants and Multimedia Assistants to coordinate teaching materials, classroom operations, events and documentation, while organising cohort activities that strengthened participation and community.

University of Bristol, Education Studies Bristol, UK
Student Representative Sep 2024 – May 2025

- Student–Staff Representation: Elected to represent the Education Studies cohort, acting as the principal liaison between students and academic staff and communicating students' perspectives on their learning experience.
- Evidence-Informed Advocacy: Identified a gap in assessment support through student feedback and successfully advocated for an official end-of-module guidance document for a core unit, strengthening the clarity and accessibility of academic support.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Languages: Chinese (native); English (advanced proficiency, IELTS 7.5); German (basic); Japanese (basic).
- Research Interests: Educational inequality; quantitative social research; data-informed education policy; digital education and cross-cultural learning; AI-enabled scaffolding and the adaptive withdrawal of support; and AI and education policy.