

# ESTHER SUN

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

*Expected May 2025*

*BA in Urban Studies with a specialization in English*

- GPA 3.90. Dean's List 4x. John Jay Scholar (top 25 Columbia College students per incoming class).
- Coursework on urban ethnography, human rights, narrative nonfiction, ethics in writing.

## EXPERIENCE

**NBC News, TODAY**, New York, NY

*June 2023 – Present*

*Digital Intern*

- Wrote 4-6 national news, entertainment, and trending stories per week for TODAY.com.
- Interviewed film/music industry stars in the green room after appearances on the TODAY Show.
- Contributed to performance logistics for global artists Karol G and TWICE in the Citi Concert Series.

**Columbia Daily Spectator**, *City News*, New York, NY

*Editor, Deputy Editor, Staff Writer*

*Sep. 2021 – Present*

- Managed metro news staff of 18 reporters & 4 deputy editors covering West Harlem for a publication awarded Best All-Around Student Newspaper in the Northeast by the SPJ in 2021.
- Developed community relations initiative: regular on-background calls with community leaders to build trust, complete coverage of Community Board 9 meetings, social media training for reporters.
- Doubled staff article output while maintaining similar or higher quality reporting as in the past.
- Planned short & long-term staff coverage of 8-12 articles a week. Edited copy daily.
- Ideated and wrote 1-3 articles a month on housing, education, public health, local politics.

### Coverage Highlights

- Broke news of Columbia's quiet eviction of the historic Red Balloon preschool, which led to multiple student/resident protests and national/citywide coverage from the New Yorker, NY1, the City.
- Broke news of State move to shelter 200 migrants in a West Harlem park amid NYC crisis.
- Investigated City negligence of public housing by testing water/paint for lead in 20 apartment units.
- Investigated Columbia's neglect of Community Benefits Agreement with West Harlem.

**Voice of America, Press Freedom**, Washington, D.C.

*Jul. 2022 – Aug. 2022*

*Reporting Intern*

- Reported on global media freedom trends and cases of harassment, censorship, and attacks on the press for international news broadcasting network. Also wrote articles for U.S. News desk.
- Wrote 4 news and feature articles every month. Turnaround time ranged from 1 day to 2 weeks.
- Interviewed journalists and representatives from police unions, press unions, press advocacy groups.

**Patch, Freelance Reporter**, Los Gatos, CA

*Jan. 2021 – Mar. 2021*

- Investigated alleged institutionalized "rape culture" on local high school football team at the height of the #MeToo movement in the Bay Area. Published anonymously due to threat of retribution.
- Interviewed football captains, players, coaches, school alumni, student survivors of sexual assault.

**Stanford Daily, Reporting Intern**, Palo Alto, CA

*June 2019 – Aug. 2019*

- Reported 5 stories on local news, arts, and sports in the Stanford/Palo Alto community.
- Interviewed protestors, musician performers, published authors.

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- *Skills*: multimedia (Adobe Premiere, InDesign, Photoshop, Audition), social media, SEO
- *Languages*: Mandarin Chinese (conversational), Modern Standard Arabic (conversational)
- *Memberships*: Asian American Journalists Association, Investigative Reporters and Editors