

Olivia Parker

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

China analyst with professional proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, U.S. Secret clearance, and experience in both American and Taiwanese government institutions. Holding a B.A. in Chinese and an M.P.P. from the University of Maryland, I will begin as a Research Analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, focusing on China's security and defense affairs. I aim to apply my expertise to support the UK's research community's understanding of China's strategic objectives and contribute to shaping the United Kingdom's Indo-Pacific security and policy agenda.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

International Institute for Strategic Studies

Washington, D.C

China Programme Research Analyst, 40hrs/wk

September 2025- Present

- Collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data on China's defense and security activities to inform UK and allied policy discussions.
- Conduct open-source research in Mandarin Chinese, translating and synthesizing findings into concise briefings for senior researchers and policymakers.
- Support the China Programme's research and consultancy projects by meeting deadlines and providing in-depth analysis of China's domestic politics, foreign policy, and economic strategy, with relevance to the UK's Indo-Pacific agenda.

University of Maryland School of Public Policy

College Park, MD

Research Assistant, China Affairs, 25hrs/wk

August 2022-May 2024

- Produced open-source intelligence reports on Chinese naval developments under Professor Joshua Shiffrin.
- Published an in-depth report with the Department of Defense Center for Excellence and Disaster Management on Taiwan's humanitarian organizations and their disaster response capabilities.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

Camp H.M Smith, Hawaii

Northeast Asia Policy Intern (J51), 40hrs/wk

June-August 2023

- Drafted five research proposals, collected and assessed open-source data, and managed strict deadlines to deliver materials that informed senior-level officials, including three-star generals, on China's security and defense activities in the South China Sea.
- Represented the division in official meetings, producing detailed research notes and timely analyses on China's strategic behavior and its implications for U.S., UK, and allied Indo-Pacific policy agendas.

Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation

Taipei City, Taiwan

Policy and Media Research Intern, 25hrs/wk

August-December 2021

- Conducted high-level research on ASEAN businesses to identify gaps in Taiwanese economic policies. Provided daily reports to supervisors with recommendations.
- Translated over 75 briefings, essays, speeches, and articles from Chinese to English and English to Chinese to be used at international forums and meetings by international leaders.

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program Participant

A two summer commitment paid-internship program exposing undergraduates to U.S. diplomacy and the Foreign Service.

Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Public Diplomacy/China Watch Intern, 40hrs/wk

Washington D.C.

June-August 2020

- Authored a 15-page research memo on Chinese censorship and activists who disappeared during the COVID-19 pandemic;. findings were featured on various U.S. State Department channels.
- Conducted open-source research on daily propaganda pieces distributed on Chinese and American social media platforms. Assessed which pieces pertained to US national security, drafted reasonings, consolidated information into a single intelligence briefing, and handed it to the Deputy Assistant Secretary Johnathan Fritz nightly.

National Public Radio

Senior Correspondent and Journalism Instructor, 25hrs/wk

Tempe, Arizona

January 2017- May 2020

- Produced over 35 print, radio, and film stories from concept to broadcast, incorporating extensive background research, source evaluation, and fact development. Several pieces became award winning.
- Edited and fact-checked over 300 stories by junior journalists, conducting in-depth verification of sources, data, and narratives while delivering detailed, constructive feedback.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland

Master of Public Policy, International Security and Economic Policy

College Park, Maryland

May 2024

- A Robertson Foundation for Government Fellow
 - A fully-funded Master degree program with a 3-year commitment to federal service post-graduation.
- President of the International Policy Council, 2023-2024
- Member of the Brody Forum Public Policy Council 2023-2024
- Member of the Center for International Security and Studies at Maryland (CIISM) 2022-2024

Arizona State University

Bachelor of Arts in Chinese, Minor in French

Tempe, Arizona

December 2021

- Chinese Language Flagship Graduate, Summa Cum Laude
 - A federally funded 5-year undergraduate degree program to equip students with professional proficiency and cultural competency in Chinese.
- David L. Boren Scholar for Chinese Language
- Foreign Language Area Studies Scholar
 - A Department of State funded language scholarship which funded study abroad opportunities in Taiwan.
National Yang-Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei Taiwan January-December 2021
 - Received certificates in Chinese and International Relations.
 - Earned Boren Scholarship certification in Mandarin after successfully completing proficiency tests.
 - Drafted and presented a Capstone thesis to senior Taiwan policy officials in Mandarin.
 - National Taiwan University, Taipei Taiwan** June-August 2017
Completed the intensive summer International Chinese Language Program.

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

- Author, *A Rapid Assessment of Humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations in Taiwan* August 2024
 - Department of Defense report on Taiwan's local non-governmental organizations' disaster response capabilities. [Link](#)

- University of Maryland open-source research on Chinese Naval developments. August 2022-May 2024
- Capstone thesis, presented to senior Taiwan policy officials. [Link](#) December 2021
- National Public Radio Media Portfolio, various articles and audio pieces. Link May 2020

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- John Steinbruner Endowed Student Support Fund, Center for International Security and Studies at Maryland, 2024
- Public Policy Development Office Research Grant, University of Maryland School of Public Policy, 2024
- Summer Impact Leader Research Fellow, The Do Good Institute of Maryland, 2024
- Robertson Foundation for Government Fellowship, 2022
- U.S. Department Pickering Fellowship Semi-Finalist, 2021
- China-Taiwan Scholar, David L Boren Scholarship, 2021
- Chinese Language Scholarship Recipient, Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship, 2019, 2021
- Rocky Mountain Southwest Emmy Awardee, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, 2018

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Routes to Becoming a Young Diplomat: The United States Foreign Service Internship Program” Arizona State University 2019
- Presenter, “The Impact of Print Media and Young Journalists in the Phoenix Valley” Coronado High School, 2018

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP

- Fellow, Robertson Foundation for Government, 2022-Present
- Member, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, 2025- Present
- Alumni Association Member, David L Boren Scholarship, 2021-Present
- President, University of Maryland International Policy Council, 2023-2024
- Mentor, Robertson Foundation for Government Mentorship Program, 2025

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Professional Proficiency ILR 3 / HSK 6, incl. classical texts); French (Advanced).
- Methods: Open-source intelligence (OSINT), qualitative analysis, comparative analysis, policy brief drafting.
- Technical: R, Stata, Gephi, C++, Microsoft Office, Adobe Suite.
- Other: Translation (Chinese–English), cross-cultural research, high-level briefing preparation.