

# Charlotte (Charlie) Fong

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## EDUCATION

**New York University Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates (Summa Cum Laude 2026 Graduate, 4.0 GPA)

- Bachelor of Arts in Arab Studies, minors in Arabic and Archaeology
- Arabic coursework: Intermediate 1 & 2, Egyptian Dialect, Hybrid Identities in the Gulf, Media Arabic, Advanced Arabic 1, Arabic Language and Heritage 1, Modern Arabic Short Stories
- Arabic Language Teaching Assistant providing language instruction to peers in Intermediate 1
- Study away semester in Buenos Aires in Fall 2024 with a full course load taught in Spanish

## JOURNALISTIC EXPERIENCE

**Agence France-Presse, Reporting Intern**, United Arab Emirates (March 2024)

- Completed a week-long internship at leading French news agency AFP during spring break. Interviewed a member of the Dubai police in Arabic. Conducted investigative research on the [UAE84](#) "terrorism" trial. Shot videos at the Dubai Ramadan souq and iftar cannon. Monitored state and maritime agencies' social media changes for latest developments in Houthi Red Sea attacks.

**CNN Academy Abu Dhabi, Fellow**, United Arab Emirates (Sep. 2023 - Dec. 2023)

- One of thirty selected [fellows](#) of CNN Academy Abu Dhabi 2023, participating in a ten-week intensive media training [program](#) learning from the network's journalists with a focus on climate storytelling. Final video about cat overpopulation caused by rising temperatures [aired](#) on CNN's Connect the World with Becky Anderson on December 1 during COP28. Honorable Mention Special Recognition Award at the 2023 Climate Storytelling [Simulation](#) among 110 participants from over 30 countries.

**CNN International, News Intern**, Hong Kong (May 2022 - July 2022)

- Received first [byline](#) on 15th day of internship: "Dead little blue penguins keep washing ashore". Reported [live](#) on July 1 Hong Kong's 25th Anniversary Handover to China. Participated in [producing](#) "Marketplace Asia" hosted by Kristie Lu Stout. Gathered newsworthy videos and photos, sent news alerts to all CNN producers. Worked across News, Digital and Business Desks.

**The Gazelle**, New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- *Senior News Editor (Aug. 2021 - May 2021)*: Oversaw News Desk during production on a weekly basis, managing a team of 5 editors and deputies remotely from Hong Kong. Made final editing calls on the desk. Member of the publication's managing board that governed its editorial direction and policies. Represented the desk at pitch and budget meetings. Mentored junior staff writers in writing and editing. Wrote an average of two articles per week, from profiles of students and faculty to investigative news pieces to personal essays. Writer's page can be found [here](#).
- *News Editor (Jan. 2021 - May 2021)*: Promoted to desk editor from deputy after a semester. Stood in for the senior editor and directed the desk in their absence. Handled daily affairs of the desk such as rostering editors.
- *Deputy News Editor (Aug. 2020 - Dec. 2020)*: Selected as deputy editor in my first semester with the UAE's only independent publication. Worked under senior editor to cover weekly news items, writing one article per week. Edited articles for style, clarity and grammar.

**Coconuts Media, Editorial Intern**, Hong Kong (Oct. 2020 - Dec. 2020)

- Covered local breaking news for the Hong Kong bureau of Coconuts, a news outlet with branches all over Southeast Asia. Wrote at least two articles a day. Stories ranged from local crime and politics to a long form feature on two Filipino sisters who lived undocumented for 30 years. Writer's page can be found [here](#).

**South China Morning Post Young Post, Reporter and Intern, Hong Kong (Dec. 2014 - Apr. 2021)**

- Veteran student reporter at the city's leading English language newspaper with extensive reporting experience. Live reported on the 2019 pro-democracy protests and DSE results day. Interviewed Nelson Mandela's documentary photographer and Angry Birds' creator. Completed two full-time internships at the headquarters and worked alongside professional journalists. Selected by the main paper's photography editor to shadow a photographer for a day. Stories ranged from local arts and culture to op-eds to reviews.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES**

**New York University Abu Dhabi, Research Assistant, United Arab Emirates (Feb. 2025 - present):** Working with Professor William Zimmerle to create an atlas of Christianity in the UAE. Conducting literature review and creating a bibliography. Reaching out to church leaders to conduct oral history interviews. Reading and mining site reports of Christian archaeological sites.

**Africa Center Hong Kong, Education Programs Intern (May 2021 - July 2021):** Creating content for and curating educational programs including African art, indigenous religions and refugees.

**Kilna Beirut, Website Designer (Sep. 2020 - Nov. 2020):** Designed the website of an NGO that collects and distributes aid to victims of the Aug. 4 Beirut explosion in multiple languages.

**Photo4Good Hong Kong, President & Head of Photography (2019 - 2020):** Directed a network of volunteer student photographers to provide free, high quality services to nonprofits. Connected 60+ student photographers with 20+ organizations, including KELY Support Group, Kids4Kids, Hong Kong Model United Nations, etc.

## **LANGUAGES**

**English** – Native proficiency C2

**Arabic (Modern Standard and Egyptian Dialect)** – Advanced-Mid working proficiency C1

**Spanish** – Advanced-High working proficiency C1-C2

**Mandarin Chinese (Simplified Script)** – Advanced-High working proficiency C2

**Cantonese (Traditional Script)** – Native proficiency C2

**Japanese** – Intermediate-Mid proficiency A2

## **AWARDS**

**Finalist of Alfred H. Bloom Scholarship for the Global Liberal Arts (2025)** – One of 26 shortlisted finalists among 650+ students in my class year competing for a merit-based full scholarship.

**Winner of Hong Kong Student Letter Writing Competition (2020)** – Received a trophy, certificate and 1000 HKD cash prize.

**Winner of Literary Writing Lodge in Hong Kong Voices (2018)** – Chosen from 30 students at the Baptist University's writing workshop.

**Finalist of Best Volunteering Report Award (2014)** – Presented at South China Morning Post Young Post's Junior Reporter Awards.