

Beccan Simon

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Major: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Engineering Entrepreneurship Minor

GPA: 3.94/4.00

Relevant Coursework: Heat and Mass Transport, Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics of Fluids, Organic Chemistry

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Class of 2026

New Trier High School

GPA: 3.99/4.00

Winnetka, Illinois

Class of 2022

WORK AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Penn Engineering Entrepreneurship Fellows Program

2025 Cohort

- One of 12 University of Pennsylvania Students selected for a 12-month work-study program in technology and entrepreneurship leadership

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 2024 – Present

Centro de Desarrollo Sustentable GEO

Researcher and Data Analyst

- Interned at a center in the University of Buenos Aires' Economic Department through Penn's Global Research & Internship Program
- Investigated over 40 different environmental, social and economic indicators for sustainable development in Buenos Aires
- Integrated findings and analysis into an official information report designed for public, private, and third sector use

Buenos Aires, Argentina

June 2024 – August 2024

Northwestern University (Center for Talent Development)

Teaching Assistant for Grades 6-8

- Assisted local teacher in instruction of two enrichment courses: "Introduction to Biomedicine" and "Introduction to Biotechnologies"
- Hosted biweekly study sessions for students, clarifying lecture material through study guides and review games
- Led students through laboratory experiments for blood typing, fetal pig and cow eye dissections, bacterial transformation and CRISPR, gel electrophoresis, PCR, and bioinformatics

Evanston, Illinois

June 2023 – August 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Shu Yang Laboratory

Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Work with a postdoctoral researcher 10-12 hours per week in a materials science and chemical engineering lab
- Synthesize flexible metal organic frameworks and attach them to mixed matrix membranes for environmentally responsive water harvesting
- Receive training in solvothermal synthesis, x-ray diffraction, gas sorption tests, and kirigami design

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

September 2024 – Present

Hughes Laboratory

Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Worked in a tissue engineering lab for 10-12 hours per week under the guidance of a PhD student
- Used techniques such as tissue culture, CRISPR, plasmid preparation, transfection, staining, and more

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 2024 – August 2024

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Kite and Key Society

Campus Tour Guide

- Lead official Penn Admissions tours for prospective students and their families in groups of 20-60
- Answer questions and share personal experiences in a smaller setting through online Live Student Chats

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 2024 – Present

Penn Engineering Council

Academic Mentorship Committee

- Plan events to help assist students' academic experiences; foster professor-student and student-student mentorship
- Organize professor-student coffee chats, advanced registration coffee chats, and a majors fair to advise underclassmen

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 2024 – Present

PennQuest Pre-Orientation Program

Leader

- Assist first-year Penn students in their transition to Penn through a multi-day excursion in the Poconos in August
- Lead 10 first-year Penn students on the Appalachian trail for 3 days
- Train in wilderness first aid, navigation, and leadership

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 2023 – May 2026

Base Camp Coordinator

- Chosen by other leaders to oversee the junior leaders and manage logistics for the entire PennQuest program
- Hand craft trail maps and bus routes, adjusting them based on Appalachian trail conditions

SKILLS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND INTERESTS

Languages: Spanish (professional working proficiency)

Software: Java, Python, OCaml, MATLAB

Achievements: National Merit Semifinalist, Jan Borja Memorial Scholarship (Service Award), James Munich Award for Excellence in the Life Sciences

Interests: Soccer, renewable energy, neuropsychiatric disorders, CRISPR gene therapy, artificial intelligence, piano