

# Melissa Sakar

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

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- Proficient in conducting qualitative and quantitative research
- Demonstrated strong leadership skills through experience as a team captain on the Columbia Women's Tennis Team
- Knowledgeable in financial markets and sustainability; looking for opportunities at the intersection of the two industries
- Japanese and Turkish language skills (advanced)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies** Seattle, WA  
*Master of Arts, International Studies; GPA: 3.8* Expected June 2024

Relevant Coursework: Financial Modeling for the Public Sector, Climate Change, and Energy Policy, Comparative International Studies

- D1 Student-Athlete on the University of Washington Women's Tennis Team
- Member: University of Washington Investment Banking Accelerator (UWIBA)

**Columbia University, Columbia College** New York, NY  
*Bachelor of Arts, Sustainable Development* May 2022

Relevant Coursework: Economics and Financial Models for Sustainable Development, Calc-Based Statistics, Climate Change and Law, Environmental Law

- GPA: 3.7/4; Honors: 2019, 2020, and 2021 Deans List (3.9); 2019-2021 ITA Scholar-Athlete Award Recipient

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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**Polen Capital** Boca Raton, FL  
*Summer Intern* June - August 2021

- Worked with the compliance and marketing teams to implement new SEC Marketing guidelines on all company activities and materials. Presented the final product to the entire firm of 150-plus employees
- Edited and drafted necessary legal documents for customers and governing financial bodies
- Learned about Polen's investment strategy and general overview of the asset management business

**NPO Ashita-Tomorrow Study Abroad Teaching Program** New York, NY  
*Speaker and Representative* Nov 2018- Present

- One of two selected for an all-expense-paid trip to three high schools in Japan, located in cities affected by the 2011 tsunami
- Presented to over 300 students on the benefits of studying abroad in hopes of encouraging them to seek global opportunities
- Mentor Japanese high school students, speaking to them weekly in English to develop their communication skills

**Columbia University, NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Team** New York, NY  
*Member; Team Captain (2021-22)* Sep 2018 – May 2022

- Dedicated 35 hours per week to practice, conditioning, competition, and team meetings while balancing a full academic course load
- Actively played on the starting lineup and qualified for the ITA All-American tournament as a freshman, playing at number two in singles and doubles. Overall record is 57-21.
- Part of the first team in Columbia Women's Tennis history to achieve a national top 20 ranking during the 2019-2020 season

**Sustainability Workshop, Columbia University** New York, NY  
*Student Worker* Sep-Dec 2021

- Worked for the New York City Housing Agency (NYCHA), NYC Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency, and NYC Department of Health and Hygiene to help build climate resilience in NYC
- Conducted extensive economic, political, and on-sight research to determine the community centers in NYC best fit to build a climate resiliency hub
- Created a framework that shows the step-by-step process of building resilience hubs as well as what is needed to continue successful operation

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Co-Founder, Columbia Pre-Law Athletics Society** New York, NY, Sep 2020- May 2022

- Founded the Pre-Law Athletics Society to bring together a community of student-athletes interested in the legal field
- Planned alumni panels, mentorship connections, law school admissions advice, and LSAT community groups

