Kian Lakhani

New York, NY · +1 (646) 593-6979 · kkl2141@columbia.edu · github.com/klkh7

Founder and forward deployed engineer. Co-founded Quad, a campus discovery platform used by 2,500+ students across 12 U.S. universities, built production evaluation and retrieval systems for AI agents at Circle and advised the UK's largest exam board (AQA) on AI education.

Education

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, NY **Aug 2025 – 2029**

- Bachelor of Arts: Computer Science-Mathematics & Philosophy | GPA 4.0/4.0 (Dean's List, all semesters)
- Coursework: Discrete Mathematics, Linear Algebra & Probability, Data Structures & Algorithms, Java, Calculus I & III

Haberdashers' Boys School | London, UK **Sept 2020 – 2025**

- A Levels: A*A*A*A in Computer Science, Philosophy, Economics, and Mathematics | 10 A*s at IGCSE, top 0.03% internationally | Academic Scholarship | Gold Award, UK Maths Olympiad

Professional Experience & Ventures

Quad | *Co-Founder & CTO* | New York, NY **Nov 2025 – Present**

- Co-founded and scaled a bootstrapped campus-discovery platform to 12 universities and 2,500+ students. Featured in the *Columbia Daily Spectator*. Landed a partnership with Wall Street Oasis to bring its finance bootcamps and recruiting tools to Quad students.
- Built a distributed ingestion engine that indexes thousands of clubs and events across 12 universities. It uses custom adapters for JS-rendered, paginated university platforms (e.g. CampusGroups) and normalizes everything into one schema.
- Built Quad's AI assistant which performs semantic retrieval over every club and event, tool calling for structured queries and multi-turn memory, gated by an eval suite of 100+ real student conversations on every deployment.
- Building a recommendation engine that balances exploration against personalization, evaluated against behavior trends in production.
- Lead engineering across iOS (SwiftUI), web (Next.js) and backend (Postgres/Neon, Clerk, Vercel), shipping weekly.

Circle AI | *AI Engineer Intern* | San Francisco, CA **Sep 2025 – Aug 2026**

- Owned agent evaluation for Circle's browser-automation product. I designed and built its CLI eval harness from scratch, starting from an open-ended mandate, and it scores every run on task success, token cost and latency.
- Built a 30+ task regression suite from real production failures and benchmarked frontier LLMs against it through OpenRouter. The results directly informed the production model choice.
- Engineered RAG pipelines over insurance policy and claims data end to end (chunking, embeddings, retrieval ranking and grounded synthesis), turning inconsistent model output into repeatable answer quality.
- Shipped core platform features to production, including TOTP multi-factor auth, social login and a customer-support portal with escalation routing. Ran customer onboarding calls and turned what I heard into product changes within the week.

Leadership & Impact

Application Development Initiative (ADI) | DevFest Lead | New York, NY **Sep 2026 – Present**

- Lead engineering for DevFest 2027, Columbia's flagship hackathon which has historically drawn 1,000+ participants alongside sponsors like Google.
- Architect and build the event's core software, the platform hackers, sponsors and judges use from application to final demo day.

Columbia Software Solutions | Project Manager, OpenPlans | New York, NY **Sep 2026 – Present**

- Lead engineering of a campaign tracking and reporting platform for OpenPlans, a NYC nonprofit that campaigns for people-first streets (School Streets, Low Traffic Neighborhoods).
- Act as the forward-deployed technical lead: running discovery with OpenPlans staff, defining the reporting metrics and shipping on confidential campaign data under an NDA.

Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) | *Student Advisory Consultant* | London, UK **Jul 2023 – Aug 2025**

- One of 8 students selected nationwide to advise on education policy affecting 1M+ students annually.
- One of 3 students to present to politicians in Parliament and at the Festival of Education, translating technical AI considerations into actionable curriculum policy for board members.
- Piloted AI curriculum ideas from the AQA advisory work by designing and teaching my school's first sixth-form elective on AI theory and ethics.

Skills, Affiliations & Interests

Languages: Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, Swift, Java, SQL
Stack: React, Next.js, SwiftUI, Node.js, Postgres, Prisma, Neon, Redis, Vercel, Clerk
AI: RAG, LLM evaluation, agent eval harnesses, prompt design, tool calling, vector databases, OpenAI API, OpenRouter
Awards: Winner, Social Impact Track, YHack (Yale), 2026 · LAMDA Gold Award, public speaking · Dean's List, Columbia
Communities: Almaworks (Columbia's startup accelerator, 2026) · Columbia Startup AI Studio · Columbia XR Club
Volunteering: 200+ hours with Rafiki Ya Kenya