

Jacky Wang

A stay-at-home dad in the workforce with in-demand data science skills.

When Jacky arrived in Canada from Taiwan in 1999, he faced one of the most difficult learning tasks a person can undertake: acquiring a new language from scratch. Since then, his life has been marked by learning. He went on to earn an undergraduate degree in communications engineering and a master's in electrical and computer engineering, both from Carleton University. After graduating, Jacky worked as a math tutor before becoming a stay-at-home dad to his three kids.

Seeing the data science big picture

With his youngest in school, Jacky was ready to re-enter the workforce, but his engineering degrees had aged in the fast-moving industry. The need to update his skills led him to data science, a perfect blend of programming and math that brought together his educational background with his passion for numbers. He took a college course to brush up on his programming skills and enrolled in a self-paced online data science program, but without guidance, he struggled to orient himself in the vast field. After five months, he felt he'd barely made a dent in all there was to learn.

Enter XTAP. The data science bootcamp



offered Jacky the big-picture overview of data science he'd been missing in self-study, plus a community of mentors and co-learners. "XTAP helped give me the big picture — what I should learn as the first step, what's most important," he says. With a solid foundation in place, he's excited to continue learning on his own. "I feel more ready after just three months. That's amazing."

XTAP helped Jacky upgrade his technical skills in SQL, Python and machine learning while addressing another challenge that often holds back both immigrants and parents attempting to reboot their careers: the lack of a professional network. One of his major takeaways was a set of new relationships built through the program and Lighthouse Labs and a sense of connectedness with the broader data science community.

A passion for learning

Jacky credits his success in the program to the resilience he had to develop as a newcomer to Canada. The bootcamp — which he counts among the most intensive learning experiences of his life — called on the same determination that allowed him to meet the challenge of adapting to a new language and culture largely on his own. His resilience, commitment to learning and newfound confidence in his abilities will serve his future employer well. “Data science is my dream.” he says. “I’m hungry to learn more.”

Hire Jacky.

