

Nicola S. Ilario

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Economics and History student at the University of Pennsylvania with published research across economic policy, geopolitics and trade. Combines quantitative analysis with strong writing and multilingual communication skills.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences

Philadelphia, PA

Candidate for Bachelor of Arts in Economics and History. GPA: 3.60/4.00.

May 2028

Relevant Coursework: Statistics for Economics, Economics of Family, Intermediate Microeconomics, Introductory Economics: Macro, Calculus, Part II, European International Relations 1914-present, Foundations of Law, American Diplomatic History Since 1776.

EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

May 2026 – Aug. 2026

American Foreign Policy Council

Washington, D.C.

- Conducted research and strategic analysis on economic, trade, and geopolitical developments in the Caucasus region, synthesizing complex information into actionable insights for senior researchers and policymaker audiences.
- Authored and published analytical reports for the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Analyst reaching policy and decision-making audiences.
- Coordinated research projects with senior fellows, including publications on U.S. economic and strategic interests along the Middle Corridor trade route, managing multiple workstreams and deadlines, while ensuring quality and consistency across outputs.
- Supported event planning and execution for policy conferences and panel discussions on Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, collaborating across stakeholders and contributing to successful briefing of legislative audiences.

Research Intern

June 2023 – Aug. 2023

Economic Policy Research Center

Tbilisi, Georgia

- Researched political and economic trends across the South Caucasus and developed evidence-based analysis for governmental stakeholders, helping inform policy discussions and strategic decision-making relevant to U.S. regional priorities.
- Produced research briefs on democratic governance and EU accession prospects for Georgia, disseminated to governmental and academic audiences to inform regional policy recommendations.

ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

Penn Pi Lambda Sigma (POLIS)

Sept. 2025 - Present

Board Member - Managing Editor

- Lead editorial operations and content strategy for one of Penn's most selective pre-professional organizations, overseeing publication workflows, deadlines, and quality control across multiple student contributors.
- Design and implement a Notion-based knowledge management system that improved access to the University and POLIS resources and streamlined internal collaboration.
- Plan and execute speaker events featuring senior policymakers and public leaders.

Penn Political Review

Sept. 2026 - Present

Staff Writer

- Author articles analyzing economic and political trends globally, with a focus on energy, technology, trade, and supply chains.

Penn Quiz Bowl

Sept. 2024 - Present

Team Member

- Organize Penn Bowl, an annual intercollegiate tournament drawing national university teams; represent Penn in national competition tournaments.

West Philadelphia Tutoring Project

Sept. 2025 - Present

Mathematics Tutor

- Deliver one-on-one mathematics tutoring to students from under-resourced communities in West Philadelphia.

PUBLICATIONS & SKILLS

Publications: [Beyond the Battlefield: Caspian Fallout of the Russo-Ukrainian War](#); [Russia and South Ossetia Move Toward de facto Union](#).

Technical: R (programming language), HTML, Statistical Analysis, Notion, Open-Source Research & Analysis (OSINT), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Working Proficiency), Georgian (Limited Working Proficiency), Russian (Elementary)