

## Part 1: Craft messages to professionals

**Recipient:** L K

**Background:** A Research Engineer at Google DeepMind, **L** holds dual master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science at Stanford. He has succeeded in leading tech companies and is now venturing into his own business. His path, from advanced education to significant roles in leading companies and eventually entrepreneurship, is particularly inspiring.

**Tag:** engineer in tech lead, entrepreneurship, CS, ME

Hey L K, I hope you're doing well. I am Jonas Li, a master's student at UC Berkeley specializing in machine learning within robotics. Your journey—from a CS master's at Stanford to leading roles in tech and now entrepreneurship—resonates with my own goals.

With seven years in robotics engineering since high school, leading teams and developing algorithms, I aim to refine my skills and expand the network in a tech company before starting my own business. I'm particularly interested in how you made the leap from engineering to entrepreneurship and applied your technical background in building your venture.

Would you have time next week for a coffee to share some insights? I'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonas Li

[xxxxx@berkeley.edu](mailto:xxxxx@berkeley.edu)

**Recipient:** A K

**Background:** Currently working at Meta, **A** holds a bachelor's degree from China and an MEng from UC Berkeley. She has an extensive background in both research and industry experience. **A**'s career interests me because of her ability to integrate deep technical expertise with real-world applications, and her commitment to helping others in the same field grow, which aligns with my own desire to stay connected with the community while advancing in my career.

**Tag:** undergrad in Shanghai, extensive research, CS, enjoy life, MEng EECS 24', alumni

Hi A K, I hope you're doing well. My name is Jonas Li, a master's student at UC Berkeley specializing in machine learning within robotics. I'm truly inspired by how you've blended deep technical knowledge with real-world applications in your academic research and at Meta.

Having followed a similar path—from undergrad in Shanghai to the MEng EECS program at Berkeley—I'm interested in hearing about what motivated your decisions and how you effectively adapted to new environments. Additionally, I'd love to learn how you efficiently leveraged UC Berkeley's resources to navigate the job market.

Would you have time next week for a coffee to share some insights? I'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jonas Li

[xxxxx@berkeley.edu](mailto:xxxxx@berkeley.edu)

**Recipient:** Terry Chen

**Background:** A Software Engineer with experience across several startups in diverse industries, from eCommerce to finance and beauty. He's also a content creator on YouTube, sharing his journey and insights with others who have similar aspirations. Terry's combination of technical roles and entrepreneurial spirit, along with his motivation to create and share, evokes my own goals of balancing engineering with business ventures.

**Tag:** Content creator, Software Engineer, experienced tech guy, non-related major to CS

Hi, Terry, I hope you're doing well. My name is Jonas Li, a master's student at UC Berkeley specializing in machine learning within robotics. I've been following your journey as a software engineer and content creator on YouTube, and I'm truly inspired by how you've balanced your technical roles across various startups with your entrepreneurial spirit.

Your passion to share your experiences and insights while pursuing diverse opportunities in eCommerce, finance, and beauty aligns closely with my own goals of integrating engineering with business ventures. I would love to hear more about how you've navigated these transitions and maintained your motivation to create and share.

Would you have time next week for a brief chat or coffee? I'd greatly appreciate the opportunity to connect and learn from your experiences. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jonas Li

[xxxxx@berkeley.edu](mailto:xxxxx@berkeley.edu)

## **Part 2: Questions Bank**

Low-stake questions:

1. Can you describe a typical day in your current position?
2. How did you transition from your academic background to your first professional position?
3. What initially motivated you to the field of robotics/autonomous vehicle/xxx?
4. What do you enjoy the most about your job? [Is it low-stake? Not sure]

Big-picture questions:

1. What trends do you see developing over the next few years?
2. If you think of a couple of folks who are successful in your company, what are some traits they have in common.
3. What advice would you have liked to have heard when you were starting out?
4. If you have a new colleague, what level of expertise or proficiency would he need to achieve within his first year to exceed your expectations?

Advanced questions:

1. Are there any resources, communities, or networks you found particularly helpful as you advanced in your career?
2. Given your experience in various industries/companies, how do you decide which opportunities/industry/company/position to pursue?
3. If I plan to start my own business in the future, what career path would you recommend, and what advice would you give for me in my current position?