Begum Akkas

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Chicago, IL
Master of Science in Computational Analysis and Public Policy　　　June 2026 **(**Expected)

The George Washington University　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Washington, DC
Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Affairs, Security Policy Concentration　　May 2021
Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Presidential Scholarship Recipient

SKILLS

Technologies: Python, SQL (MySQL, DuckDB), JS (D3), HTML/CSS, R, ArcGIS, Git, Tableau, AWS (S3, EC2, SNS/SQS)
Libraries: Pandas, GeoPandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, Flask (REST APIs), Matplotlib, Altair, Boto3, Plotly
Languages: English (native); Turkish (native)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fraym　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Chicago, IL
Data Science Intern　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　June 2025 – August 2025
- Built and deployed a Python-based dashboard that dynamically retrieves analytics from Fraym's ensemble machine learning model, enabling flexible data sampling and real-time filtering capabilities.
- Streamlined data ingestion across AWS and Fraym's internal database; audited and aligned existing codebase to ensure seamless integration with Fraym's data infrastructure.
- Authored and presented a technical proposal to the data science team of four, outlining project architecture, data flow, and ML interpretability methods.
- Partnered with Engineering and Product teams to design and implement dashboard metrics that identified key performance gaps in the ensemble, improving model accuracy and reliability by roughly 5-10%.

Berkeley Research Group　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Washington, DC
Consultant, Senior Associate, Associate　　　　　　　　　August 2021 – May 2024
Summer Associate　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　June 2020 – September 2020
- Designed and implemented SQL-based analytics pipelines, providing actionable insights and data-driven recommendations to 5-6 clients for litigation matters.
- Developed data cleaning and preprocessing scripts to ensure data integrity, accuracy, and consistency were met; resulted in improved analysis, error reduction, and reliability of results.
- Conducted sensitivity analyses in SQL to assess the impact of varying scenarios and assumptions on business outcomes, providing clients with a clear understanding of potential risks and outcomes in litigation cases.
- Led a pro bono case as the most senior staff member, independently learned Snowflake to process millions of records and delivered actionable analytics within a tight two-week deadline, directly presented findings to the client.
- Authored two detailed expert reports and delivered presentations summarizing research findings, analyses, and recommendations for clients, counsel, and senior leadership.
- Collaborated closely with senior management and counsel to identify and understand client needs, resulting in improved client retention and expansion of project scope.
- Managed 4-5 junior staff across 2-3 cases simultaneously by defining project requirements and ensuring timely delivery of results.

Institute for International Economic Policy　　　　　　　　Washington, DC
Economic Research Assistant　　　　　　　　　　　　September 2020 – May 2021
- Conducted data analysis and research support for Professor Fenizia's working paper: "Organized Crime and Economic Growth: Evidence from Municipalities Infiltrated by the Mafia" *[R&R at American Economic Review]* ([Linked](#)).
- Processed and analyzed datasets with hundreds of thousands of records in R, extracting key insights and trends for peer-reviewed economics publications.
- Edited research papers and recommended additional sources to strengthen research findings.