**Full Name / Pseudonym**

Iñaki Arango

**Age**

20

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**Phone Number**

+1 (281) 919-8581

**School (if applicable)**

Rice University (freshman year) and Harvard (transferring in the fall)

**Graduation Year (if applicable)**

2025

**Degree (if applicable)**

B.S. in Computer Science and Minor in Math

**Location**

Houston, Texas, United States

**What in crypto most excites you? (250 words or less)**

I believe crypto has huge potential as a day-to-day tool, beyond a mere store of value. Coming from Argentina, where finances are made notoriously hard by a government that imposes complicated and heavy restrictions on the ownership and movement of foreign currency, I see decentralized currency systems as a way to do business with the rest of the world.

I’m interested in any advancement that accelerates the rate of mass adoption of blockchain and cryptocurrencies. In lieu of that, I find the following quite interesting:

* Technologies that enable cheaper transaction fees and interoperability between chains (e.g., Atomic Swaps, Polkadot).
* Technologies that perform arbitrage between chains and investment opportunities, stabilizing the markets, like Yearn or NALA (crosschain alternative to Yearn).
* Innovations in UX. Improvements in speed, ease of use, and understanding for end-users are critical for mass adoption. The more we move away from CLIs and towards clean and sleek mobile and web apps, the more people will feel comfortable adopting platforms that leverage the technology.
* Improvements in the approach to teaching about crypto (e.g., CriptoLab). It is important for a basic understanding of crypto to be part of common knowledge to remove the stigma that crypto is “scary” or for a very technical few. Better education would also help prevent people from falling for scams that threaten their livelihoods and that give a bad reputation to the crypto community and the technology as a whole.

**What are some projects you've built and what are you working on now? (250 words or less)**

I’ve built three projects related to crypto:

* Reindi (2019-Present): App for managing health insurance documentation and reimbursements through smart contracts that would make it impossible to fake information. After finishing a working prototype we presented it to leaders of 3 of the largest private health insurance firms in Argentina (Osde, Omint & Swiss Medical), who liked the idea but said that blockchain technology was not there yet, and they would prefer the same system but using traditional Web 2 technologies.
* Docsit (2019-2020): Series of smart contracts, backend code and client libraries that made it easy to upload, retrieve and visualize documents using the Ethereum blockchain and IPFS. The system worked similarly to Protocol Labs’ new project: web3.storage.
* IPFS Multiplexer (2019): While building Reindi I was trying to improve the performance of information retrieval from IPFS and developed a frontend JS library that connected to multiple IPFS nodes at once and chose the best one when requesting documents.

Currently working on Recyco (2020-Present): An online platform that aims to increase the participation of consumers and big consumer goods businesses in the recyclables’ circular economy. Consumers are incentivized through “Recycoins” to recycle. Businesses and governments (which are the trash collectors in Argentina) leverage the Recyco Platform to track recyclable collection efforts as well as to manage their recyclable material assets. Currently in talks with Unilever and Nestle, among others, to perform a pilot in Argentina.

**What would you most like to take advantage of with the Fellowship? (100 words or less)**

I mostly self-teach from online sources, but I notice that a lack of personal connections and exposure to the crypto community makes some concepts harder to understand or to come across. To continue growing, I would love to meet talented and driven individuals that are looking for ways to improve crypto and its adoption. The Paradigm Fellowship would be an incredible opportunity to do so.

I also look forward to the Mentorship portion since I want to learn more about how to incorporate crypto technology gradually into applications that are not fully decentralized yet, and how the UX is affected.

**Previous Work (Please provide any relevant links to GitHub, portfolio, blog, etc.)**

GitHub: <https://github.com/inakineitor>

CV: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GAXlX-qtS5lEwUi0doTfbRePbOTVUHt6/view>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/inaki-arango/>

**Personal Links (Twitter, website, video pitch of an idea you're working on, etc. – anything that would help us get to know you better)**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16HPrq5A2UoYYLUnjMmzcxdkfhmeIFv3M/view> (please keep private since this is unreleased)

**How did you hear about the Paradigm Fellowship?**

A friend from high school with whom I have worked before is also applying and recommended I apply.

**Are there any other individuals you would recommend for the Paradigm Fellowship?**

Lisandro Acuña.