

Mina Sonmez

(650) 686-0621 • msonmez@berkeley.edu •  linkedin.com/in/mina-sonmez

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Expected Graduation: December 2026

B.A. in Cognitive Science, Minor in Data Science

Notable Coursework: Entrepreneurship and Technology (SCET Challenge Lab) · Statistics · Leading People · Computational Structures in Data Science · Foundations of Data Science · Research Methods and Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Internal Head

January 2025 – Present

Open Computing Facility, Campus IT Organization

Berkeley, CA

- Managing operations and member onboarding, serving 50+ members, overseeing logistics, communications, and administrative processes
- Organizing 10+ events per semester including technical talks, social events, and retreats, expanding membership by 30% through recruitment and marketing initiatives
- Lead new member intake and day-to-day operations including event coordination and community building

Undergraduate Researcher

May 2025 – October 2025

Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, GA

- Co-authored AI safety research published at ICWSM 2026 on adversarial attacks that exploit LLM safety guardrails using fine-tuning and extended conversations
- Developed mixed-methods evaluation framework combining psychological theory (Dark Triad, game theory) with automated LLM classification to assess jailbreak vulnerabilities in AI agent memory, planning, and fine-tuning
- Conducted human annotation to validate LLM-generated harassment patterns, leveraging cognitive science principles to benchmark AI agent toxicity

Business Development Intern

June 2025 – August 2025

channelseal, Berkeley SkyDeck Startup

Berkeley, CA

- Organized and cleaned 3,000+ prospect contacts in Excel and HubSpot CRM, enabling targeted outreach campaigns to potential enterprise clients and partners
- Managed website lead capture forms and contact database in HubSpot, streamlining business development pipeline for cybersecurity startup
- Refined investor pitch deck and contributed to partnership outreach, aiding in securing meetings with enterprise clients including GM Financial

PROJECTS

Founder

Berkeley, CA

NewNav (Newcomer Navigator)

Fall 2024 – Present

- Building AI-powered college counseling platform targeting student market of 3.9M+ first-generation high school students
- Conducted competitive analysis and 50+ customer discovery interviews to identify product-market fit and differentiation strategy
- Developed MVP and iterating on go-to-market strategy through Berkeley SCET and BASICS (Berkeley Accelerator & Startup Incubator in Cognitive Science)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer and Mentor

Berkeley, CA

Bay Area Cultural Connections (BAYCC)

September 2021 – Present

- Mentor 10 female high school students on cultural identity and college pathways with focus on empowerment; organize quarterly interfaith and cultural dialogue events creating community connections for Muslim youth

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Technical Skills: Excel · Tableau · Power BI ·  · HubSpot · Canva · Jupyter Notebooks · Airtable

Certifications: **AI Powered Data Analyst Certificate (In Progress)** – California Institute of Career Development