

# Sajjad Zafar

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University in the City of New York (GPA: 3.98/4.0, Dean's List)**  
*Bachelors in Computer Science with Special Concentration in Business Management*

**New York, New York**  
Expected 2023

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**[Safepay](#) (YC S'20, backed by Stripe)**

**5/2021-8/2021**

**Software Engineer Intern**

Karachi, Pakistan

- Designed, coded, and debugged internal finance tool to retrieve and merge data from 8 sources and to view cleaned, aggregated data on all transactions to help the startup with tracking, tax compliance, growth analysis, commission and payments settlements, saving the team ~35 minutes everyday (Python, SQL, Docker).
- Prototyped and coded a KYC dashboard for new merchant onboarding from scratch, with multiple automated checks and custom, conditional rendering in compliance with local regulation and accommodating for different business types. Automated previously manual process, saving ~2 hours/merchant and solving essential growth bottleneck (React, Redux, JS, Firebase).

**[Tooler](#)**

**2/2021-4/2021**

**Software Engineer Intern** (Delivery startup founded by two current CBS students)

New York, New York

- Automated courier delivery system using Twilio, Postmates, and Google Sheets API, saving ~5 mins per order.

## LEADERSHIP

**[Almaworks Accelerator](#)**

**4/2020-Present**

**Director (prev Head of VC partnerships & Demo Day)**

New York, New York

- Almaworks is the student-run startup accelerator. Our 90+ startups have raised \$38M+ and enrolled in YC, etc.
- Lead 18 member team (prev 7) across multiple sub-initiatives e.g. fellowship, alumni summit, newsletter, etc.
- Evaluated top 10 startups from an annual cohort pool of 125+ to participate in the accelerator program.
- Connected startups with leading mentors based on startup need. 40+ mentors across 8 weeks per cohort.
- Spearhead Demo Day planning and execution, increasing participation by 123% and 86% semester-on-semester.
- Establish partnership with Bain Capital + with Harvard and MIT for a summer program with 150+ participants.
- More than doubled corporate partnerships from 9 to 23.
- Currently leading the creation of a builder-focused undergraduate innovation launchpad from scratch.

**[Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs](#)**

**9/2019-Present**

**Director of Membership and Board Member (prev Operating Committee Leader)**

New York, New York

- Responsible for recruiting and onboarding new students for the largest entrepreneurship club on campus.
- Heavily involved in a number of CORE initiatives e.g. PM fellowship, CORE podcast, and media strategy.
- Lead 5-week workshop for 50 students in Turkey, Jordan, and Kenya teaching fundamentals of entrepreneurship.

**[Grant Winner](#) - Center for Science and Society** - Awarded to empirically study vaccine misinformation in S Asia

## PERSONAL TECHNICAL PROJECTS

**[New Syntopicon](#) (1.68k unique visitors with 13.96k total requests)**

- Created a better reading experience by combining knowledge graphs and influential books to convert 450 key ideas in books to graph nodes to help readers epistemologically explore development of and connections between ideas in an easy, visual, interactive, and accessible manner.

**[Reddit Data Visualization](#) (678 upvotes, 81 comments)**

- Retrieved, cleaned, and analysed approximately 1.3 billion data points over 20k+ posts on Reddit to identify a number of major trends and produced 28 data visualisations to effectively represent them.

**[Open AI GPT-2 Project](#) (881 upvotes, 75 comments)**

- Trained Open-AI's GPT-2 model on mined news articles using the simple-package to generate soccer headlines.

**Reminisce (almost complete)** - Building notes app that randomly emails you a note everyday to help you reflect and remember ideas you may have forgotten.

**[Friendlia](#) (paused)** - Coding website to connect students wanting to make new friends (without the awkwardness).

**Newsletter Interface (in progress)** - Using Gmail API to build a clean interface to read subscribed newsletters online without cluttering one's inbox

## SKILLS AND COURSEWORK

- Technical Skills:** Googling, Java, C, Python, SQL, JS, React, Redux, Flask, HTML/CSS
- Relevant Coursework:** Data Structures, Advanced Programming, Databases, Discrete Mathematics, Calculus-Based Statistics, Calculus III, Computer Science Theory\*, CLA\*, Artificial Intelligence\*