# Sajjad Zafar

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## EDUCATION

**Columbia University in the City of New York**                                    **New York, New York**
*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science*                                                  Expected 2023
- **GPA:** 4.02/ 4.0
- **Honors:** Dean's List (all semesters); Bilquees Hasnain Memorial Cup for Academic Distinction
- **Languages:** Fluent in English & Urdu; Professional working proficiency in Hindi
- **Technical Skills**: Java, C, Python (numpy, pandas, matplotlib, plotly), SQL, HTML/CSS, Tailwind, Flask, Excel
- **Relevant Coursework:** Data Structures, Advanced Programming*, Databases*, Discrete Mathematics, Calculus-Based Introduction to Statistics, Calculus III, Intermediate Microeconomics & Macroeconomics

## EXPERIENCE

### Almaworks Accelerator
***Director (prev Head of Demo Day)***                                                  New York, New York
Almaworks is the undergrad-run startup accelerator. Our 70+ startups have raised $30M+ and enrolled in YC, etc.
- Evaluate Top 10 startups from an annual cohort pool of 125+ to participate in the Accelerator program.
- Connect startups with top mentors based on startup need. 40+ mentors per across 8 weeks per cohort.
- Spearhead Demo Day marketing, logistics, and invitation liaison, increasing community participation by 86%.
- Establish partnership with Bain Capital + with Harvard and MIT for a summer program with 150+ participants
- Lead team of 15+ across multiple sub-initiatives e.g fellowship, alumni relations, summit, website redesign, ect.

### Tooler
***Software Engineering Intern***                                                       New York, NewYork
- Working on a delivery startup founded by two current CBS students
- Automated courier delivery system using Twilio, Postmates, and Google Sheets API, saving ~5 mins per order
- Assisting founders in other startup tasks e.g. YC application, sales, and platform and inventory design decisions

### Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs
***Operating Committee Leader***                                                       New York, New York
- Lead workshop for 50 students in Turkey, Jordan, and Kenya teaching them fundamentals of entrepreneurship.
- Taught, held office hours, and provided detailed feedback to help guide them navigate world of venture creation.
- Involved in a number of CORE initiatives e.g. PM fellowship, CORE podcast, recruitment, and media strategy.

### Global Research and Consulting
***Associate Consultant***                                                             New York, New York
- Worked with German non-profit providing audio learning to women in developing countries.
- Devised optimal implementation strategies for volunteer acquisition and retention, and identified three partners in target countries for expansion of sustainable language hubs.
- Designed ways to incorporate the experiences and regional socio-economic realities of marginalized women into existing content for optimal learning opportunities.

### Reon Energy Solutions
***Research Analyst***                                                                 Karachi, Pakistan
- Investigated feasibility & impact of off-grid rural electrification in villages in Interior Sindh region of Pakistan.
- Developed cost-effective electrification models for population sizes of 100-5000.

**Grant Winner - Center for Science and Society -** Awarded to empirically study vaccine misinformation in S Asia

**Personal Technical Projects**

### Reddit Data Visualization
- Mined data using the Reddit API, cleaned and analyzed it, identified a number of major trends, and produced 28 data visualizations to effectively represent them.
- Analyzed approximately 900 million Upvotes, 88 million downvotes, 38 million Comments, 500k Awards across >20,000 posts this year.

### Open AI GPT-2 Project
- Trained Open-AI's GPT model using mined news articles to generate soccer and news headlines

### Friendlia **(in Progress)**
- Building website to help connect college students who want to make new friends in college
- MVP almost ready (launching in a couple weeks, demo available upon request)

**LinkedIn Invite Chrome Extension (in Progress) -** extension for automating LinkedIn invitations for email contacts