

# Umur Yıldız

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## EDUCATION

<b>Bilkent University</b> <i>Master of Arts in Neuroscience</i>	Ankara, Turkey <i>Sep. 2025 – Sep. 2027 (Expected)</i>
<b>Bilkent University</b> <i>Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Software Development</i>	Ankara, Turkey <i>Jan. 2020 – Jan. 2024</i>
<b>Neuromatch Academy Summer School</b> <i>Computational Neuroscience (2023), Deep Learning (2024), NeuroAI (2025)</i>	Remote <i>Summer 2023, 2024, 2025</i>

## EXPERIENCE

<b>Research Assistant</b> <i>Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Lab, UMRAM, Bilkent University</i>	Ankara, Turkey <i>July 2023 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyze high-dimensional fMRI data with machine learning approaches and implement novel geometric data collection methods.</li><li>Integrate Turkish LLM systems with social robots for low-latency, real-time, multimodal, human-robot interaction.</li></ul>	
<b>Teaching Assistant &amp; Lab Tutor</b> <i>Bilkent University</i>	Ankara, Turkey <i>Aug. 2023 – May 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assisted over 110 students as a Lab Tutor and Recitation Instructor for CS115: Introduction to Programming in Python and CS125: Introduction to Data Analysis for Social Sciences.</li></ul>	
<b>Contract Data Analyst &amp; Software Developer</b> <i>Various Platforms</i>	Remote <i>May 2022 – July 2024; Sep. 2024 – May 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provided Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) annotations for structured data generation, math, and coding for Large Language Models (LLMs) in Turkish.</li><li>Provided contract freelance frontend development services by refining AI-generated code suggestions into production-ready user interfaces.</li></ul>	

## PUBLICATIONS

Yıldız, U., Kelbakh, A., Yuce, B., & Zhuang, T. (2025). *Representation of semantic encoding in low and intermediate-level visual regions* [Preprint]. doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15315748

## AWARDS & HONORS

- TÜBİTAK 2247-C STAR Young Researcher Scholarship
- Full Scholarship for B.A. and M.A. studies at Bilkent University
- High Honors Graduate (Psychology & Software Development)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming Languages:** Python, C++, MATLAB, SQL
- Data Science & ML:** PyTorch, Keras, Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-learn, Dspy
- Neuroscience Tools:** PyMVPA, CoSMoMVPA, FSL, SPM
- Data Visualization:** Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly, Tableau