

# Samara Ahmed

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## EDUCATION

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### **Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, Master of International Affairs** **May 2020**

- Microeconomics, macroeconomics, and quantitative analysis, using STATA to evaluate policy outcomes.
- Won \$1,000 Gitelson Award for Human Values.

### **Columbia Journalism School, Master of Science** **May 2019**

- Longform narrative writing, digital journalism, and multimedia fundamentals.
- Covered juvenile justice, local housing, and immigration, with a beat in Jackson Heights, Queens.

**CUNY Hunter College, Bachelor of Arts** in English Literature. GPA 3.82 (Dean's List).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Refugee Organizer, Center for American Islamic Relations** April 2022-Present

- Consulting around strategic planning, specifically with policy initiatives and coalition work.
- Outreach with elected officials to promote pro-refugee policies.

### **Journalism Research Assistant, EdSurge** Nov 2021-March 2022

- Created surveys, conducted literature reviews, and connected with experts to find up-to-date information on the topics of teacher burnout and teachers with multiple jobs. Researched and pulled statistics from government and other data sources about education trends.
- Research attributions in [Mother Jones](#) and [The New Republic](#).

### **Freelance Writer** Dec 2016–Oct 2021

- *You and I*, *The Philadelphia Citizen*, *Documented*, *Curbed Philly*, *Philadelphia Neighborhoods*, *Hunts Point Express*, and *Al-Bustan*. Interned at *IndiaSpend* during the summer of 2020.
- *Inciter*: Case Study on combining human intelligence and machine learning to combat substandard and false online health information.

### **Get Out the Vote Coordinator, NextGen Climate** Oct 2016–Nov 2016

- Managed seven Field Directors to plan 18 voter engagement events for more than 4,000 college-aged voters during the 2016 presidential election cycle.
- Oversaw a \$45,000 budget, used to obtain legal permits, manage business contracts, and staff events.
- Initiated a free rides-to-polls program for students at the Community College of Philadelphia. Managed 20 volunteer drivers.
- Helped utilize data from the Voter Access Network to raise awareness about events and implement voter outreach strategies made up of canvassing, calling, and texting.

### **Program Advisor for College Access, South Asian Youth Action (SAYA)** Nov 2014–May 2016

*SAYA is a 501(c)3 that prepares low-income youth for college, career, and personal success.*

- Collaborated with the Executive Director to implement the first-ever SAYA College Scholarship Program, which distributed \$118,000 in scholarships to 16 first-generation college students.
- Provided personal statement assistance and counseling to 70 students, helping young people craft their stories for college applications. Four students were awarded Questbridge Prep Scholarships.
- Designed and implemented the first SAYA PSAT curriculum for a cohort of 12 underclassmen.
- Organized overnight and day trips to colleges, for groups of 50 students.

**SKILLS - Social media management:** Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, search engine optimization (SEO).

**Multimedia software:** Adobe Suite. **Coding:** Beginner proficiency in SQL, R, and Python.