

Sonja Bacinski

Python Developer · Finance Automation · Building with AI

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PROFILE

I'm a Python developer with a finance background, and I automate the work finance teams do by hand: invoicing, payments and reconciliation. In 1.5 years at a fintech, I built Python pipelines for financial data, including an email-ingestion pipeline that went into production and an automated monthly cash reconciliation. Now I'm building Liquet in public, designed so that rules match the bank statement to the firm's books, an AI agent investigates what's left through tested tools, and a person approves. I started in finance doing reconciliations by hand, so I can talk to finance teams about their process in their own terms.

EXPERIENCE

Exaloan AG

Jan 2025 – Jun 2026 · Remote from London

Fintech connecting institutional investors with loan originators

Junior Software Developer (thesis-linked contract)

Jan 2026 – Jun 2026

- Designed and built a Python ETL package (about 4,000 lines, CLI with a dry-run mode) that loads loan-portfolio data from a NoSQL document store and Excel files into an ArangoDB graph of the investment lifecycle, from allocation and bid to investment, loan, scheduled payments and status events: about 58,000 nodes and 110,000 edges across 26 node types and 34 relationship types.
- Made loads safe to repeat: deterministic keys and upserts mean a re-run updates records instead of duplicating them.
- Compared the graph with the document model on the same business questions, and wrote it up as a public article with no company data: [Does the Graph Earn Its Cost?](#) ↗

Junior Software Developer (internship, full-time)

Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

- Built the application logic for an email-ingestion pipeline that went into production: it takes the PDF and Excel statements partners send by email, classifies them by source and files them in SharePoint through the Microsoft Graph API (MSAL OAuth2), inside an existing AWS Lambda / CDK setup.
- Wrote rules to classify cash movements (investment, withdrawal, deposit, fee, commission) with pandas, pdfplumber and regex, and added refund detection that corrects misclassified records.
- Automated the monthly cash-balance reconciliation (opening balance, fees, interest, closing balance), with results stored in ArangoDB.
- Built React screens on REST/JSON services to visualise the processed financial data.
- Worked closely with the Germany-based team, remote from London, to trace and resolve data-quality issues.

PROJECTS

Liquet · AI-assisted monthly bank reconciliation

Oct 2026 – present

Open source, in progress · github.com/sonjba/Liquet ↗

- Designed for a fictional UK wealth manager: rules match the bank statement to the firm's cash records, an LLM agent investigates what's left through a small set of tested tools, and a person approves every explanation. When the evidence isn't enough, the agent has to say so (*non liquet*: "it isn't clear") instead of guessing.
- Built so far: a statement reader that rejects bad input and checks itself (totals, running balance, dates), and a connector that reads the firm's records through one mapping file holding every source field name. 100+ pytest tests, including cases written to catch results that are silently wrong.
- Next: matching rules, the agent, and an evaluation that runs the same month with graph tools and with plain tables, scored on the right explanation and on saying "not clear" when it should.
- Writing up each design step: [Model the Job, Not the Outcome](#) ↗

Receivables system for a small business

In daily use

Private code (family business)

- Moved 73 separate Excel invoice templates for 144 customers into one Excel system, then replaced it with an app the business now runs every day: invoices, credit notes, payments, a ledger for each customer and quarterly rebates. Python, FastAPI, SQLite, Jinja2.
- Designed the database before writing any import code, so the old templates came across into one consistent model.

FIX Allocation Transformer

Jun 2026

Open source, in progress · github.com/sonjba/fix-allocation-transformer ↗

- Flattens FIX 4.4 AllocationInstruction messages, which split a block trade across client accounts, into one CSV row per account. Rebuilds repeating groups, resolves parties by role (including give-ups), rejects messages whose group counts don't match and de-duplicates re-processed messages. 40 pytest tests; gap analysis and a CLI are next.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Globant · Junior Salesforce Consultant, Graduate Programme

Sep 2023 – Mar 2024 · London

- Trained in business design, functional consulting and technical implementation. Shadowed senior consultants on enterprise client projects and supported delivery with Apex, Lightning Web Components, SOQL, Flows and requirements documentation.

Zolibri · Co-founder (part-time)

Jan 2022 – Aug 2023 · London

- Co-founded an online platform connecting conscious shoppers with vetted, ethical cosmetics brands (WordPress, Shopify), and did the market and financial analysis behind its strategy.
- Finalist in Birkbeck's Pioneer 1.0 programme (2022): pitched Zolibri and won a year of mentorship from the founder of a finance and investment startup. [Zolibri video](#) ↗ · [Meet the finalists](#) ↗

Aperian Global · Finance Intern

Feb 2018 – Jul 2018 · Kolding, Denmark

- Supported the CFO across accounts receivable: invoicing, collections and customer files. Prepared journal entries, the monthly bank reconciliations and the annual fixed-asset reconciliation.

EDUCATION

BSc Computing · Birkbeck, University of London

2024 – 2026

Six-month thesis with Exaloan: transforming loan data from NoSQL collections into a graph model in ArangoDB.

Foundation Degree in Computing · Birkbeck, University of London

2024

Foundation Degree in Financial Management · International Business Academy, Kolding, Denmark

2018

SKILLS

Python	pandas, pdfplumber, openpyxl, pytest, FastAPI, Jinja2
Building with AI	AI coding tools daily (Claude) for design discussion, code review and code suggestions; I review and test all of it myself. Designing an LLM agent with tool calling and human approval (Liquet).
Data & integration	SQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, ArangoDB (graph and document), REST APIs, JSON, XML, Microsoft Graph API (MSAL OAuth2), FIX 4.4, Postman
Cloud & tools	AWS (Lambda, S3), Git, GitHub, Bitbucket, Linux and bash; also JavaScript, React, Node/Express, Java
Finance	Reconciliation, accounts receivable, invoicing and payments, journal entries, lending data, post-trade allocations
With people	Requirements, training non-technical users (recordings, written guides), explaining technical work to finance teams
Languages	English (business fluent); Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian (native)
Certificates	Connected Data London 2025, conference and masterclass; Salesforce Pathfinder Programme, Administrator & Developer Track (2022)