

# Dr Chas Nelson

DATA CONSULTANT · CHARTERED BIOLOGIST

Glasgow, Scotland

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## Summary

Data scientist and engineer focused on using data and technology to change the world for the better. 10+ years experience in data for life sciences including data-driven public health insights, academic research in biomedicine, and AI for MedTech. Driven by creating sustainable transformation and development through data and technology.

## Key Experience

### Data Consultant

2019–current

FJELLTOPP

- Provided data science, engineering and project management expertise to support the Fjelltopp mission to harmonise the world's public health data
- Led projects working with multiple international stakeholders including IGOs, governments, funders, companies and researchers
- Provided technical React.js support on developing sustainable web apps for HIV / AIDS data integration and modelling
- Delivered new features and modules for the UNAID's AIDS Data Repository using CKAN and Python
- Supported WHO public health experts in interpreting complex qualitative and quantitative data in order to impact policies and people
- Delivered high-quality analyses and reports on topics such as emergency medical services in Ukraine and the CoViD-19 pandemic in Kazakhstan

### Technical Consultant

2023–current

ECTAD, FAO BANGLADESH

- Coordinated and led in-country developers, government partners, and implementing partners in the development of BAHIS, improving project management and prioritising infrastructure changes
- Provided expert guidance and supervision for BAHIS software development, leading coding sessions and guiding the FAO National Technical Advisors
- Prepared project documentation and reports on progress, meeting deadlines for a system module review, project plan, and monthly reports

### Founder · Executive Director · Chief Technology Officer

2020–2022

GLIFF.AI

- Founding member of gliff.ai as a Durham University spin-out in 2017
- Took over as CTO in 2020, revitalising the company into a high-growth MedTech AI SME with a 20x increase in valuation over two years
- Company and IP currently under going sale
- Personally involved in securing and managing over £1M in funding from Innovate UK and private equity investments
- Nominated as Bionow Promising Technologist of the Year 2021
- Invited to contribute to the development of the Pistoia Alliance's Toolkit for Implementing Best Practices in AI and ML
- Led our diversity strategy, leading to gliff.ai becoming a signatory of the Tech Talent Charter
- Worked closely with CEO on implementing governance, quality management and finance protocols and reporting to the Board
- Pioneered the development of new data management software for MedTech AI using Python, SQL, Typescript, React and Azure

### Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow in Data Science · EPSRC Doctoral Prize Research Fellow

2018–2020

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

- Awarded two independent research fellowship grants focussed on data science for biomedicine at the University of Glasgow
- Developed bioimage analysis approaches in Python for understanding zebrafish brain responses in multidimensional imaging data (TBs)
- Built collaborations across the world, including at the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology - one of the top 20 research bodies globally
- Invited to speak at local and national public science events including Pint of Science and the Institute of Physics Public Lecture Series

### Postdoctoral Researcher

2017–2018

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

- Developed novel computer vision technologies leading to publication in the 2nd highest ranked journal in the field
- Collaborated with researchers at the University of Edinburgh's British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence
- Organised the Glasgow Imaging Network and conference bringing together 80+ researchers leading to 50+% creating new collaborations
- Won funding to support 5 student research projects; mentoring those students throughout their projects - 3 have gone on to successful PhDs

### PhD in Computer Science

2013–2017

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

- Thesis title: Mathematical Morphology for Quantification in Biological and Medical Image Analysis
- Developed and deployed image analysis and data science solutions with collaborators at the University of Essex and with the NHS
- Published papers in 2 of the top 5 journals in the field of computer vision
- Awarded Biophysical Sciences Institute Junior Fellowship

### Master of Science in Biology and Physics within the Natural Sciences Programme

2009–2013

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

- First Class
- Thesis title: Scratching away at cancer with image analysis
- Awarded Institute for Advanced Computing and Matariki Undergraduate Research Network Grants to carry out independent research on areas of computer vision and interdisciplinary research and education, respectively