

CORY PLEASANCE

London, UK | UK / Malta (EU) Dual National

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Education

University of Stirling

Aug. 2024 – May 2028

BSc Data Science and Artificial Intelligence | On track for First Class Honours (Year 2 avg: 80%+) Stirling, Scotland

- Selected Modules: Scripting for Data Science (86%), Database Principles (80%), Introduction to Data Science (76%), Data Structures & Algorithms (75%), Economic Decision Making and Markets (72%)
- Year 2 Computer Science Course Representative – representing 80+ students on curriculum and academic matters

Research Experience

LLM Security Researcher

Sep. 2024 – Present

University of Stirling, Supervisor: Dr. Paulius Stankaitis Stirling, Scotland

- Training linear probes across 32 layers of Qwen and Mistral models to locate safety-critical decision boundaries and identify which layers encode refusal vs. compliance behaviour.
- Created adversarial prompt testing framework evaluating alignment robustness across 3+ LLM architectures, systematically cataloguing jailbreak failure modes.
- Architecting a multi-model adversarial council using PAIR-style iterative refinement, where 3+ diverse LLM architectures collaboratively generate and improve attacks through cross-model feedback loops.
- Engineered dual-GPU (CUDA) activation extraction pipeline in PyTorch and Hugging Face Transformers, processing high-dimensional activation vectors at scale across multiple architectures.
- Co-authoring research paper with Dr. Stankaitis on LLM safety evaluation.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python (primary), Java, SQL, C, x86 Assembly

ML & Data: PyTorch, scikit-learn, Hugging Face Transformers, LightGBM, CatBoost, pandas, NumPy

LLM Research: Mechanistic interpretability, linear probes, adversarial prompt testing, alignment evaluation, red-teaming

Infrastructure: Linux (Ubuntu, Kali, Red Hat), Git, Docker, Flask, CUDA, SLURM, MongoDB, Jupyter, Conda

Certifications: Claude API (Anthropic), Python Professional (OpenEDG), Advanced Deep Learning (IBM), Data Science (Google)

Projects

Hull Tactical Market Prediction | Python, LightGBM, CatBoost, scikit-learn

Dec. 2025 – Present

- Competing in a 1,000+ participant Kaggle challenge, building ensemble models for S&P 500 directional forecasting with custom feature engineering on macro-economic indicators; actively iterating on model performance.
- Implemented walk-forward and purged cross-validation to eliminate lookahead bias; tuned hyperparameters with custom financial evaluation metrics.

Custom Bootloader & Minimal OS | x86 Assembly, C, Bochs

Oct. 2025

- Wrote a bootloader and kernel from scratch in x86 Assembly handling CPU initialisation, kernel loading, and screen output, plus a FAT filesystem utility in C with modular Makefile-based build system.

Real-Time Sentiment Analysis Pipeline | Python, VADER, pandas, matplotlib

Sep. 2025

- Designed a modular pipeline for real-time sentiment monitoring with independently runnable ingestion, analysis, and visualisation modules, plus CLI tooling and automated report generation.

University Course Manager | Java

Nov. 2025

- Implemented a course management system using BSTs for $O(\log n)$ student lookups, quicksort for ranked listings, and directed graph traversal with cycle detection for prerequisite validation.

Experience

Technology, Data & Innovation – Work Experience

Deutsche Bank

May 2025

London, UK

- Supported users with Bloomberg and internal finance systems across a two-week TDI placement, reconfiguring machines and bridging the gap between technical support and non-technical users.
- Evaluated LLM robustness considerations in financial contexts with Max Sommerfeld (Generative AI in Banking) and assessed internal AI deployment strategies with Paolo Marenghi (AI Architect); attended an internal Google Cloud Next event.
- Engaged with the algorithmic trading team on algo trading workflows and risk management; met with Richard Collin (CEO, Breaking Wave – Deutsche Bank's internal fintech) on fintech innovation.

Chef de Partie & Web Developer

The City Arms

Aug. 2023 – Apr. 2024

Thames Ditton, UK

- Promoted from Kitchen Porter to Chef de Partie within 4 months; concurrently self-taught programming and shipped responsive websites for two establishments using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

Additional

Interests: Running, hiking, weightlifting, 3D printing, cooking.