

Cory Pleasance

Nationality: UK / Malta (EU)

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Profile: A BSc Data Science and Artificial Intelligence student who is passionate about machine learning and data science, with a strong emphasis on research-led projects. My primary focus is on Large Language Models, developing prompting strategies, performing adversarial/jailbreak testing, engineering models for robustness, and evaluating performance. I highly enjoy integrating LLMs into production-grade systems. With a keen interest in High-Performance Computing and distributed training across multi-GPU/CPU/TPU setups. I thrive on intellectually challenging roles that grant autonomy while enabling close collaboration within focused R&D teams, big-tech ML groups, or applied domains such as healthcare and fintech.

Technical skills:

- **Programming:** Python (strong), Java, SQL, C , x86 Assembly; environment management with Conda/Anaconda.
- **Machine Learning & Frameworks:** PyTorch, scikit-learn, Hugging Face transformers; model evaluation and reproducible experiments.
- **LLMs & NLP:** prompt engineering, adversarial/jailbreak testing, evaluation of robustness and alignment.
- **High-Performance Computing:** distributed training (multi-GPU/CPU/TPU), CUDA-aware workflows, MPI prototyping, cluster tooling (SLURM), performance optimisation.
- **MLOps & Infra:** Docker, Kubernetes, model serving, experiment tracking, basic cloud concepts (AWS/GCP).
- **Edge & Embedded:** Raspberry Pi prototyping, sensor integration and edge inference.
- **Tools & OS:** Linux (Ubuntu, Kali, Red Hat), Windows, Docker, Flask, Git.

Projects: Competed in the Hull Tactical Market Prediction Kaggle competition, developing ensemble models for S&P 500 forecasting using LightGBM and CatBoost with advanced feature engineering, time-series validation, and hyperparameter optimization, achieving competitive performance against global participants. Built a production-grade sentiment analysis pipeline with VADER, modular Python architecture, and CLI tooling. Implemented a university management system with binary search trees, quicksort algorithms, and graph cycle detection. Developed a custom bootloader and operating system in x86 Assembly and C, implementing FAT12 filesystem support, disk I/O routines, and BIOS interrupt handling.

Work Experience:

Technology Support Work Experience (TDI Department) Deutsche Bank / May 2025

- Shadowed the Technology, Data & Innovation (TDI) team, supporting traders and research analysts across hardware and software systems.
- Assisted with workstation setup, troubleshooting trading platforms, and resolving technical issues in a fast-paced, high-availability environment.
- Gained exposure to enterprise IT infrastructure, support protocols, and technology operations within global banking.

Chef de Partie and Web Assistant The City Arms, Thames Ditton/ Aug 2023 – Apr 2024

- Progressed from Kitchen Porter to Chef de Partie, gaining hands-on experience in high-volume food prep, high pressure kitchen operations, and health & safety standards.
- Took initiative in digital development, designing and building websites for The City Arms and its sister pub, enhancing their online presence and customer engagement.

Education:

University of Stirling, Scotland UK BSc Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (Aug 2024 – May 2028)

Relevant Modules: Introduction to Computing Science, Programming and User Interface Design, Introduction to Data Science, Discrete Structures, Practical Statistics, Economic Decision Making and Markets, Data Structures & Algorithms, Scripting for Data Science, Database Principles & Applications, NoSQL Databases & Data Warehousing.

Research: Contributing to university-led research investigating LLM vulnerabilities through red teaming approaches. Actively involved in developing novel algorithms and tools for crafting adversarial prompts, evaluating model alignment robustness, and analysing failure modes in instruction-following behaviour.

Volunteering: Course representative for Computer Science year two: representing the student body advising curriculum improvements and academic concerns.

David Game College, London UK - (Oct 2022 – Jun 2024)

A-levels: English , Business , History.

Kent College Canterbury, UK Jan 2020 – Oct 2022

GCSEs /IB

Woodstock School, Uttarakhand, India. (July 2018-Jan 2020)

IB: Middle Years Program (MYP)

References:

Dr Paulius Stankaitis

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University of Stirling

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