

Emad Alghamdi

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Education

University of Melbourne, Australia <i>PhD in Computational Linguistics</i> Thesis: Automated Video Difficulty Assessment Co-supervised by Dr. Paul Gruba (Linguistics) and Dr. Eduardo Velloso (Computer Science/HCI)	2017 – 2021
Missouri State University, USA <i>M.S. in Educational Technology</i> GPA: 4/4	2012 – 2014
Missouri State University, USA <i>M.A. in English Linguistics</i> GPA: 3.97/4	2010 – 2013

Projects

Automatic Text Difficulty Adjustment • An innovative web reading system that automatically adjusts reading difficulty • The system uses advanced NLP algorithm, sensor technologies (eye-tracker and thermal camera) • The project is a collaboration with expert researchers from Monash Uni, Melbourne Uni, and Adobe Inc.	2022–2023
Arabic Text Readability Classifier • An open-sourced web app for assessing text readability for Saudi students in general education (K1-12) • The system uses advanced NLP algorithm and weak supervision • The project is a collaboration with expert researchers from Cambridge Uni and Melbourne Uni	2022–2023
AUVANA • A cross-platform desktop software for automated video analysis • Uses advanced computer vision algorithms and AI	2021
KAUx (SR 500,000) • KAUx was the first MOOC platform in Saudi Arabia. • It offers free online training courses to university faculties and students	2013-2017
CrowdyQ • CrowdyQ relies on crowdsourcing techniques to generate high quality tests	2015

Scholarships and Awards

Best PhD thesis (nomination) • My PhD thesis was nominated for the best PhD thesis award in the University of Melbourne	2021
Research Excellence Award • Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Australia.	2019
PhD Scholarship • Received for pursuing my PhD research at the University of Melbourne.	2017–2021
Excellence Award–USD 3500 • Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in USA for excelling academically throughout the school year.	2012-2013
Certificate of Appreciation • Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Washington, D.C for leadership as a president of the Saudi Club at Missouri State University.	June 2019
Letter of Appreciation • Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Washington, D.C for writing an article about volunteerism.	June 2019

Experience

Incoming Assistant Professor <i>King Abdulaziz University</i>	2022
Director of the AI in Language Learning & Assessment Lab <i>King Abdulaziz University</i>	2021
Head of Research Unit <i>English Language Institute, King Abdulaziz University</i>	2021
Data Scientist Intern <i>Melbourne Data Analytics Platform, University of Melbourne</i>	September 2020 – February 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked on NLP projects using weak supervision techniques	
Causal Instructor <i>University of Melbourne</i>	July 2019 – August 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Taught a Master-level course on Technology and Language Learning	
Founder & CEO <i>Dropzin - On-demand Shipping & Delivery</i>	2015 – 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Founded the startupAdministered day-to-day operations	
Director of e-training Unit <i>King Abdulaziz University</i>	2014 – 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Founded KAUx an Arabic MOOC platformLed a team of faculty members, administrators, and on-site and remote techniciansDesigned and developed two MOOCs on innovation and critical thinking	
Head of Distance Learning Unit <i>King Abdulaziz University</i>	2013 – 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Administered online English programs (7K+ Students) and 40+ instructorsTrained faculty members on using several education technologies	
Lecturer <i>King Abdulaziz University</i>	2008-2010 – 2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Taught English courses for university students	

Personal Development

Machine Learning with TensorFlow on Google Cloud Platform <i>Coursera-A 5-course specialization by Google Cloud</i>	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction to TensorFlowHow Google does Machine LearningFeature EngineeringLaunching into Machine LearningArt and Science of Machine Learning	
International License for Entrepreneurship <i>75-hour Training Course, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</i>	2016
Design and Development of Educational Technology, MIT <i>edX</i>	2014
Entrepreneurship 101: Who is your customer?, MIT <i>edX</i>	2014
Statistics: Making Sense of Data, University of Toronto <i>Coursera</i>	2014
Competitive Strategy, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich <i>Coursera</i>	2013
Justice, Harvard <i>edX</i>	2013
Inspiring Leadership through Emotional Intelligence, Case Western Reserve University <i>Coursera</i>	2013
Internet History, Technology,& Security, University of Michigan <i>Coursera</i>	2012

Publication

Book Chapters:

- Nawaz, Sadia, **Alghamdi, Emad A**, et. al (2022). Understanding the role of AI and learning analytics techniques in addressing task difficulties in STEM education. In: Artificial Intelligence in STEM Education: The Paradigmatic Shifts in Research, Education, and Technology.
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** (2018). Effects of Using Multimodal Glosses in Video Games to Enhance Incidental Vocabulary Learning and Retention. In: Handbook of Research on Integrating Technology Into Contemporary Language Learning and Teaching. Chap.2, pp.427–448

Journal Articles:

- **Alghamdi, Emad A**, Paul Gruba, and Eduardo Velloso (Underreview). The Relative Contribution of Verbal Complexity to Second Language Video Lectures Difficulty Assessment. The Modern Language Journal: 4/194 (Linguistics)
- **Alghamdi, Emad A**, Paul Gruba, Ahemd Mersi, et al. (2022). The Use of Lexical Complexity for Assessing Difficulty in Instructional Videos. Language Learning and Technology. 8/194 (linguistics).
- **Alghamdi, Emad A**, Eduardo Velloso, and Paul Gruba (2021). AUVANA: An Automated Video Analysis Tool for Visual Complexity. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/kj9hx>
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** and Sayyed Rashid Shah (2018). Exploring the Effects of Mobile-Based Audience Response System on EFL Students' Learning and Engagement in a Fully Synchronous Online Course. International Journal of English Linguistics 8.3, p.92. DOI:10.5539/ijel.v8n3p92
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** and Hussam Rajab (2016). Unmonitored students self-created WhatsApp groups in distance learning environments: A collaborative learning tool or cheating technique. International Journal of Research, 5.2, pp.71–82
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** (2016). Untangling Multimedia Effects on EFL Incidental Vocabulary Learning via Playing an Online Hidden-Object Game. International Journal of Computer-Assisted Language Learning and Teaching, 6.1, pp.24–39. ISSN:2155-7098
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** (2015). The Representation of Islam in Western Media: The Coverage of Norway Terrorist Attacks. International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature, 4.3, pp.198–204. ISSN:22003592
- **Alghamdi, Emad A** (2014). Gulf Pidgin Arabic: A Descriptive and Statistical Analysis of Stability. International Journal of Linguistics, 6.6, p.110

Conference Proceedings:

- **Alghamdi, Emad A**, Fahad Otaif, and Paula Gruba (2018). Designing a video playing interface for second language learners. ASCILITE2018. November, pp.298–302
- **Alghamdi, Emad A**, N. R. Aljohani, et. al. (2015). CrowdyQ: A virtual crowdsourcing platform for question items development in higher education. 17th International Conference on Information Integration and Web-Based Applications and Services, iiWAS2015-Proceedings

VOLUNTEER

Founding Director **2015 – 2016**
Afaq Learning Hubs

President of the Saudi Student Club **2012-2013**
Missouri State University, MO, USA

English-Arabic Translator **2012-2014**
TED

Journal Reviewer
Behavior Research Methods, Language Learning and Technology, Interactive Learning Environments

Skills

Natural Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Fluent)

Programming Languages: Python, R, JavaScript

Machine Learning, NLP, & CV: TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-learn, spaCy, OpenCV, NLTK

Web and Desktop Technologies: HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, AWS, Vue, Electron, Django, Flask

Statistics: RStudio, SPSS