Emad Alghamdi

✉ emad.ahamd.alghamdi@gmail.com • 🖥 www.emad.ai
in emad-a-alghamdi • ⊛ Eaalghamdi

Education

University of Melbourne, Australia   **2017 – 2021**
PhD in Computational Linguistics
Thesis: Automated Video Difficulty Assessment

Co-supervised by Dr. Paul Gruba (Linguistics) and Dr. Eduardo Velloso (Computer Science/HCI)

Missouri State University, USA   **2012 – 2014**
M.S. in Educational Technology
GPA: 4/4

Missouri State University, USA   **2010 – 2013**
M.A. in English Linguistics
GPA: 3.97/4

Projects

Automatic Text Difficulty Adjustment   **2022–2023**
- 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.

Arabic Text Readability Classifier   **2022–2023**
- 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

AUVANA   **2021**
- A cross-platform desktop software for automated video analysis
- Uses advanced computer vision algorithms and AI

KAUx (SR 500,000)   **2013-2017**
- KAUx was the first MOOC platform in Saudi Arabia.
- It offers free online training courses to university faculties and students

CrowdyQ   **2015**
- CrowdyQ relies on crowdsourcing techniques to generate high quality tests

Scholarships and Awards

Best PhD thesis (nomination)   **2021**
- My PhD thesis was nominated for the best PhD thesis award in the University of Melbourne

Research Excellence Award   **2019**
- Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Australia.

PhD Scholarship   **2017–2021**
- Received for pursuing my PhD research at the University of Melbourne.

Excellence Award–USD 3500   **2012-2013**
- Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in USA for excelling academically throughout the school year.

Certificate of Appreciation   **June 2019**
- Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Washington, D.C for leadership as a president of the Saudi Club at Missouri State University.

Letter of Appreciation   **June 2019**
- Awarded by the Saudi Cultural Attaché in Washington, D.C for writing an article about volunteerism.

Experience

Incoming Assistant Professor   2022
King Abdulaziz University

Director of the AI in Language Learning & Assessment Lab   2021
King Abdulaziz University

Head of Research Unit   2021
English Language Institute, King Abdulaziz University

Data Scientist Intern   September 2020 – February 2021
Melbourne Data Analytics Platform, University of Melbourne

○ Worked on NLP projects using weak supervision techniques

Causal Instructor   July 2019 – August 2019
University of Melbourne

○ Taught a Master-level course on Technology and Language Learning

Founder & CEO   2015 – 2017
Dropzin - On-demand Shipping & Delivery

○ Founded the startup
○ Administered day-to-day operations

Director of e-training Unit   2014 – 2016
King Abdulaziz University

○ Founded KAUx an Arabic MOOC platform
○ Led a team of faculty members, administrators, and on-site and remote technicians
○ Designed and developed two MOOCs on innovation and critical thinking

Head of Distance Learning Unit   2013 – 2016
King Abdulaziz University

○ Administered online English programs (7K+ Students) and 40+ instructors
○ Trained faculty members on using several education technologies

Lecturer   2008-2010 – 2013-2016
King Abdulaziz University

○ Taught English courses for university students

Personal Development

Machine Learning with TensorFlow on Google Cloud Platform   2018
Coursera-A 5-course specialization by Google Cloud

○ Introduction to TensorFlow
○ How Google does Machine Learning
○ Feature Engineering
○ Launching into Machine Learning
○ Art and Science of Machine Learning

International License for Entrepreneurship   2016
75-hour Training Course, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Design and Development of Educational Technology, MIT   2014
edX

Entrepreneurship 101: Who is your customer?, MIT   2014
edX

Statistics: Making Sense of Data, University of Toronto   2014
Coursera

Competitive Strategy, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich   2013
Coursera

Justice, Harvard   2013
edX

Inspiring Leadership through Emotional Intelligence, Case Western Reserve University   2013
Coursera

Internet History, Technology,& Security, University of Michigan   2012
Coursera

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** 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
Afaqi 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