

Esra Kashaninia

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GitHub: github.com/Esra-K | Portfolio: esra-k.github.io

EDUCATION

- **M.Sc. - Bioinformatics** Sept. 2023 – Dec. 2025
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran; GPA: 3.83/4
Selected courses: NLP, Deep Learning, Bioinformatics Algorithms, Computational Genomics
- **B.Sc. - Computer Engineering (minor: Economics)** Sept. 2016 – Jul. 2020
Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran; GPA: 3.35/4
Selected courses: AI, ML, Advanced Information Retrieval, Design of Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Fundamentals of Game Theory, Econometrics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Research Assistant** Dec. 2023 – present
Supervised by Dr. E. Asgari - Language ML lab, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
 - Designing transformer-based models incorporating evolutionary taxonomy for cross-species protein representation learning
- **Undergraduate research assistant** Sept. 2020 – Mar. 2022
Supervised by Dr. H. R. Rabiee - DML lab, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
 - Developed graph-based methods for circRNA–disease association prediction (this paper, co-supervised by Dr. M. Kouhsar)
 - Contributed to a protein–compound interaction prediction study using structural similarities (co-supervised by Dr. K. Abbasi)

PUBLICATIONS

- Kouhsar, M., **Kashaninia, E.**, Mardani, B. et al. **CircWalk**: a novel approach to predict CircRNA-disease association based on heterogeneous network representation learning. *BMC Bioinformatics* 23, 331 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12859-022-04883-9>

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Software Design Specialist** Dec. 2022 – Jan. 2024
Behsazan Mellat Co., Tehran, Iran
 - Developed and updated SQL code for banking operations and reports concerning foreign currency remittances at Mellat Bank to fit new regulations and requirements
 - Prototyped Buy Now, Pay Later procedures, improved code documentation
- **Software Engineering Intern** Jul. – Sept. 2019
Raya Navid Systems, Tehran, Iran
 - Built a remote printing web service using Spring Boot

SKILLS SUMMARY

- **Programming** Python, R, Java, C++, SQL, Bash, L^AT_EX
- **NLP/Bio/ML** PyTorch, HuggingFace, WandB, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, spaCy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Biopython
- **Web** Selenium, Scrapy, Django, Spring Boot, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Postman
- **DB** MySQL, DB2 SQL, MongoDB, Elasticsearch
- **Project Dev Tools** GNU/Linux, Git, Jira, Trello, MS Project, Heroku
- **Languages** Persian (native), English (C2), French (A2)

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Language modeling of stock market signals for market prediction NLP project - fall 2023
- Implementing various models and training techniques, notably generative ones such as DDPM, Stable Diffusion with DreamBooth, and a simplified GPT deep learning coursework - spring 2024
- A search mini-engine for online articles using Scrapy, Elasticsearch, and RankingSVM advanced information retrieval project No. 3 - spring 2020
- Character analysis of the book "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" using word2vec NLP open project - fall 2023
- Ad click rate prediction using factorization machines ML project - fall 2020
- GWAS phasing computational genomics final assignment - fall 2024
- Gene expression profiling of acute myeloid leukemia microarray samples in R bioinformatics project - spring 2019
- Regression analysis on the FIFA 20 player dataset econometrics project - spring 2020
- A Django app for booking doctor appointments and maintaining patient records independent project - fall 2022
- A book exchange website system analysis and design project - spring 2019

VOLUNTARY PROJECTS

- Co-implementation of a QA pipeline for tabular data a solution to SemEval 2025 task 8
- A Flutter app that sends alerts to the closest first-aiders upon an emergency group project at HackZurich 2020
- Participation in preparing Jupyter notebooks for a data science event on campus Data Days 2020 and 2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

Class Rankings

- Top 10% (2nd out of 19 bioinformatics students, 12th out of 125 in CSE Department)

Nationwide Exam for M.Sc. Admissions

summer 2023

- Bioinformatics: ranked 98th among +10,000

Nationwide University Entrance Exam

summer 2016

- Mathematics and Physics: ranked 25th among +164,000
- English: ranked 18th among +6,000

TA EXPERIENCE

- **Fundamentals of Image Processing** - Delivered by Dr. H. Peyvandi spring 2025
- **Computational Drug Design (graduate course)** - Delivered by Dr. M. Kalemati spring 2025
- **Signals and Systems** - Delivered by Dr. H. Sameti fall 2021
- **Computer Simulation** - Delivered by Dr. B. Safaei fall 2021
- **Data Transmission** - Delivered by Dr. A. M. A. Hemmatyar fall 2021
- **Machine Learning (graduate course)** - Delivered by Dr. A. Hosseini spring 2021
- **Linear Algebra** - Delivered by Dr. S. Hossein Ghorban spring 2021
- **Compiler Design** - Delivered by Mr. M. Bahrami fall 2020
- **Design of Algorithms** - Delivered by Dr. A. Sharifi Zarchi spring 2020
- **Compiler Design** - Delivered by Dr. Gh. Jaberipur spring 2020
- **Computer Simulation** - Delivered by Dr. H. Peyvandi fall 2019
- **Mathematics and physics** - Razavieh High School Jan. 2017 – Sept. 2018