

# Nehemia Araia

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Handshake AI | Fellow**

Remote | Oct 2025 - Present

- Evaluated numerous LLM outputs to identify bias, hallucinations, and reasoning gaps, contributing data and insights that improved model reliability, contextual accuracy, and alignment across diverse prompts.
- Collaborated with researchers to refine model behavior through structured annotation, prompt engineering, and failure-mode analysis, directly supporting safer AI development and higher-quality model performance.

### **University Information Security Office | Security Analyst Intern**

Norfolk, VA | Aug 2025 - Present

- Investigated and Responded to 75+ monthly phishing and suspicious email reports, leveraging **Microsoft Defender** to identify threats and mitigate risks across the university.
- Leading student SOC operations by executing incident response procedures, escalating high-severity alerts, and collaborating with management to reduce potential risks.

### **Amazon Web Services | Cloud Support Engineer Intern**

Dallas, TX | May 2025 - Aug 2025

- Led the development of an AI-powered meeting summarizer that transcribes and generates summaries from audio, while enhancing cloud architecting and troubleshooting skills through scenario based challenges.
- Automated the design & deployment of a highly available, auto scaling ECS containerized application using Terraform, integrating ALB, WAF, and CloudWatch, improving response time by **45%** through load balancing.
- Completed 65+ hands-on labs, applying 50+ AWS services across real-world scenarios involving automation, networking, compute, and storage.

### **Northwest Federal Credit Union | IT Security Intern**

Herndon, VA | June 2024 - Aug 2024

- Engineered and deployed a phishing campaign to educate employees on social engineering tactics, leading to a **20%** reduction in phishing susceptibility across the organization.
- Collaborated with the team to optimize security tools and ensure NIST SP 800-53 compliance, supporting patch management, endpoint protection, disk encryption, email/web gateways, MFA, and LogRhythm SIEM.

## SKILLS

**Certifications:** AWS Certified AI Practitioner | AWS Solutions Architect Associate | Security + | CISSP (Studying)

**Languages & AI/ML:** Python | JavaScript | SQL | PowerShell | Bash | Node.js | YAML | LangChain | PyTorch

**Tools & DBs:** Terraform | CloudFormation | Kubernetes | Docker | Jenkins | Prometheus | Grafana | Linux | DynamoDB

**Security:** CrowdStrike | Rapid7 | IBM QRadar | Splunk | ELK | SonarQube | Trivy | Semgrep | ServiceNow

## PROJECTS

### **Security AI Agent for Vulnerability Assessment**

Norfolk, VA | Sept 2025 - Oct 2025

- Fine-tuned an LLM with LoRA and built a RAG agent to detect code and IaC vulnerabilities, map findings to CWE/CVSS, and validate fixes with Semgrep, Tfsec, and Checkov, improving detection F1 by 15 points.

### **AI Driven Cloud Threat Analysis & Compliance Mapping**

Norfolk, VA | Oct 2025 - Nov 2025

- Built an AI driven cloud threat detection pipeline that mapped GuardDuty findings to NIST, CIS, & MITRE ATTACK, correlated CloudTrail events, and sent SNS alerts with Bedrock summaries to speed incident response.

## EDUCATION

### **Old Dominion University | BS, Cybersecurity | Minor: Data Science | GPA:3.5**

Norfolk, VA | Grad. May 2026

- Knowledge:** Threat Intelligence, Cloud Security Architecture, Alert Triage, Agentic Workflows, Azure, GCP, Detection Engineering, IAM, DevSecOps, Incident Response, Malware Analysis, Penetration Testing, Data Analytics, Vulnerability Management, GRC (NIST, CIS, ISO, SOC 2).
- Relevant Coursework:** Generative AI in Cybersecurity, AI methods & models, Business Analytics, Ethical Hacking & Pen Testing, Cyber Risk FedRAMP/Audit, Linux System for Cybersecurity.

**CTFs:** UCCS Mountain West Cyber Challenge, CyberFusion, CyberForge, AWS Jam (Placed Top 3).