

Suhail Ahmed – Personal Statement

University of Birmingham, Dubai

The notion of empowerment through binary digits has long captivated me, marvelling at the extraordinary capabilities achievable through mere sequences of 1s and 0s. It is this profound fascination that propels me towards a career in Computer Science. Raised in Dubai amidst a blend of Indian and Emirati cultures, I've imbibed a profound appreciation for diversity, a trait pivotal in today's globalized world. My journey with technology began at age six when I first laid my hands on a laptop. Its complexity filled me with both joy and disbelief. Pursuing a Master's in Machine Learning at the University of Birmingham is the natural progression of this passion, enabling me to delve deeper into the realm of AI and emerge as a trailblazer in this dynamic field.

My academic pursuit, culminating in a BSc Honors in Computer Science (AI) from Heriot-Watt University, has equipped me with a robust foundation in Python, Java, machine learning, and other essential programming languages and concepts. I have a collective of two years' worth of work experience, working at different profiles of companies, from start-ups to Forbes-listed companies, SMEs, MNCs and even global conglomerates.

During my tenure as a Software Development Intern at IO21, I contributed to an e-commerce project as a backend developer, swiftly mastering Django and proposing innovative ideas that garnered praise from the CTO. Subsequently, as a Business Engagement Lead at iCode Jr., I honed my database management skills while negotiating deals and managing multiple Emirates' databases.

My most enriching experience came as a Software Development Intern at Al Yousuf Group, where I progressed from a full-stack developer to a project manager. I oversaw the development of five diverse projects, including CRM, sales forecasting, and a chatbot. I automated lead management workflows, conducted requirement elicitation meetings, and fostered strong stakeholder relationships, highlighting my proficiency in project management and leadership.

As a Solutions Engineer at Softlogic Holdings, I am responsible for driving initiatives and negotiations with international clients and stakeholders. Reporting directly to the director and CEO of the Middle East and being under his mentorship, I bring innovative value to the technical and product enhancement development team through my expertise in AI. Joining forces with a company that values forward-thinking and cutting-edge technology will allow me to continue to make a real impact in the industry.

I have both participated in and led teams to victory in various prestigious hackathons. One notable example is the RTA Sustainability Hackathon, where my team and I developed machine learning models to optimize student commute and warehouse management, demonstrating my commitment to leveraging AI for societal benefit. Additionally, I came

second in the UAE and fifth worldwide in the Applied AI Company (AAICO) Hackathon. During this event, my team and I developed an unsupervised voice stream analysis for effective intra-channel and broadcast communication within fire-fighting brigades. Another notable achievement includes receiving the Deputy Principal's Award for academic excellence.

My aspirations extend beyond academic excellence; I envision leveraging my expertise to drive innovation and societal impact. Post-graduation, I aim to contribute to top Fortune 500 companies in the UAE and around the world, harnessing my skills to pioneer transformative AI solutions. Inspired by visionaries like Steve Jobs, Elon Musk and H.H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, I am driven to create a lasting legacy through technology and innovation. UAE's vibrant tech ecosystem, coupled with its cultural richness and economic prosperity, beckons as the ideal setting to realize my ambitions.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to contribute to the vibrant academic community at the University of Birmingham, Dubai and embark on a transformative journey of learning and discovery.