

# Ali Farzanehfar

Ph.D Student

8 Vicarage Gate, Kensington, London, W8 4AG

✉ [ali@farzanehfar.com](mailto:ali@farzanehfar.com)

🏠 [plsignore.com](https://plsignore.com)

📱 [ali-farzanehfar](https://ali-farzanehfar)

## Education

### Imperial College London

Ph.D in Computational Privacy and Computational Economics

London - United Kingdom

Dec. 2016 - Oct. 2019 (expected)

- Awarded scholarship of £130,000 (versus the typical £70,000) based on academic merit
- 4 high-profile talks (to 70+ people): the European Commission (Belgium), the FCA (UK), ITDP (USA) ([linked](#))

### University of Cambridge

Masters courses in Applied Mathematics

Cambridge - United Kingdom

Oct. 2015 - Jun. 2016

### University of Southampton

Masters in High Energy Particle Physics (**First Class Honours**)

Southampton - United Kingdom

Oct. 2011 - Jun. 2015

- Won “Best research thesis” award for anomaly detection algorithm developed at CERN
- Awarded scholarship worth £22,600 based on academic merit
- Awarded CERN placement as one of the top three students in class of 200+ (98.5<sup>th</sup> percentile)

### Oxford Brookes University

International Foundation Diploma in Liberal Arts (**First Class Honours**)

Oxford - United Kingdom

Feb. 2011 - Sep. 2011

- “Excellence of Achievement” award for project on *The dangers and uses of AI technology*

### Moheb e Safa High School

Pre-University certificate (**Top 0.3% of 300,000 students nationally**)

Tehran - Iran

Sep. 2008 - Sep. 2010

## Experience

### Opportunity International

Consultant - Operations and Strategy

London - United Kingdom

Jun. 2018 - Present

- Operations: Develop a digital solution to expand school-fee loans to low-income families in Uganda
  - Reduced bank costs by digitising loan decision process (21 days to 1 day) for 9,000+ customers
  - In a team of 3, created a data standard to future-proof the digitisation strategy of the Ugandan bank
  - Successfully balanced the needs of local Ugandan loan officers and London management team
- Strategy: Conceived strategy and obtained funding to expand into the Pakistan market (Ongoing)

### Imperial College London / Dyson School of Design Engineering

Teaching assistant: Big Data, Introduction to Machine Learning, Coding for Medics

London - United Kingdom

May. 2017 - Present

- Designed course material and taught 200+ students at both Undergraduate and Masters level

### Imperial College London / Data Science Institute

Ph.D Researcher

London - United Kingdom

Dec. 2016 - Present

- Market Competition: Quantify the impact of AI on competitive insurance markets with real pricing models
  - Leading a team of 4 researchers over 1.5 years in experiment design and scale (20-fold increase)
  - Seeking out, and maintaining contact with, 4,000 actuaries over 3 months for data collection
- Privacy: Estimate the re-identification risk of very large (60M) mobility data sets (real mobile phone data)
  - Built a machine learning model, exposing privacy limits in policy (submitted to Royal Society)
- Supervising 1 undergraduate and 1 graduate student project over an academic year

### The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Research assistant for the CMS Electromagnetic Calorimetry group

Geneva - Switzerland

Sep. 2014 - May. 2015

- Discovered the cause of anomalous signals in detector, using 3 self-designed, hypothesis-driven tests
- Built and validated a detection algorithm for anomalous signals using a large-scale simulation (C++)
- Published research that led to saving €5M by delaying the need for an upgrade for 5 years

### University of Southampton Students' Union (Capoeira Club)

Founder and President

Southampton - United Kingdom

Oct. 2012 - Sep 2014

- Founded and led the growth of the club from 5 to 150 members in 2 years (committee of 7 members)

## Additional skills

#### Programming:

- Python (Advanced)
- C++ (Novice)
- R (Novice)

#### Languages:

- English (Native)
- Farsi (Native)
- Portuguese (Novice)

#### Interests:

- Capoeira (11 years)
- Jazz piano (8 years)
- Bungee jumping (18 jumps)