

Ali Salamatian

alisalamatian1@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/alisalamatian1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alisalamatian1) | github.com/alisalamatian1 | [personal website](#)

SUMMARY

Computer Science Honours student (**4/4 GPA**) with research experience in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Computer Vision (CV), including a **first-author paper at EMNLP**. Interested in pursuing research on **multimodal models**, leveraging hands-on experience from internships at **Amazon** and **Mastercard**.

EDUCATION

University of British Columbia

September 2021-May 2026

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science Honours

Vancouver, BC

- **Cumulative GPA: 4/4**
- Coursework: Machine Learning (98%), AI (97%), Computer Vision (93%), NLP (97%), Optimization(96%)

PUBLICATIONS

- **Ali Salamatian**, Amirhossein Abaskohi, Wan-Cyuan Fan, Mir Rayat Imtiaz Hossain, Leonid Sigal, and Giuseppe Carenini. *ChartGaze: Enhancing Chart Understanding in LVLMs with Eye-Tracking Guided Attention Refinement*. **EMNLP 2025 Main Conference** ([paper link](#)).

EXPERIENCE

University of British Columbia

May 2024 – Current

Research Assistant Advised by Leonid Sigal, Giuseppe Carenini, Evan Shelhamer, and Cyrus Neary

Vancouver, BC

- Introduced *ChartGaze*, the first large-scale eye-tracking dataset for chart question answering.
- Proposed a gaze-supervised attention refinement method that aligns **large vision-language models' (LVLMs)** attention with human gaze, improving model accuracy and interpretability.
- Led experiments showing our model's **improved performance in low-data settings** and stronger focus on semantically meaningful chart regions.
- Co-authored a tutorial on transformers, LLMs, and chart captioning.
- Ongoing: Developing *LookWhen*, achieving **quadratic savings** in video attention computation by selecting salient patches within video frames.
- Ongoing: Improving **vision-language-action** model robustness using Monte Carlo Tree Search and a value head to optimize robotic action selection.

Amazon

May 2025 – Aug 2025

Software Engineer Intern | Java, Lambda, Q CLI

Vancouver, BC

- Designed a scalable, secure, and cost-efficient migration plan for internal secret storage.
- Increased canary test coverage by **19.5%** without impacting execution time.
- Refactored test repository leveraging Q CLI, improving maintainability, efficiency, readability, and consistency.

Mastercard, Data Services Department

May 2023 – August 2023

Software/Data Engineer Co-op | Python, PySpark, Java Spring Boot

Vancouver, BC

- Recognized with the **Innovation Week Award** for enhancing the speed and accuracy of information retrieval by developing a chatbot using Retrieval Augmented Generation (**RAG**).
- Developed an accurate K-means customer segmentation model, improving marketing strategies.
- Enhanced scalability and performance of large-scale data analysis by migrating from pandas to PySpark, resulting in **33% faster** client profiling and benchmarking.

Mastercard, Decision Management Platform

May 2022 – December 2022

Software Engineer Co-op | Java Spring Boot, SQL, Jenkins, Angular

Vancouver, BC

- Re-implemented and deployed an application to Pivotal Cloud Foundry, enhancing scalability and maintainability through a **microservice-oriented design** and automated Jenkins pipelines.
- Introduced **automation** by developing a feature that updated over 600 rules in production.

AWARDS

- Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) May 2024–August 2024
- Trek Excellence Scholarship (**top 5% of faculty of science**) September 2022 and 2025