

ANDREW AQUILINA

◇ Computational social science, natural language processing, AI fairness ◇

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Education

University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. Information Science

PA, Pittsburgh

Aug 2024 – present

Stockholm University

M.Sc. Computer and System Sciences, Artificial Intelligence

Stockholm, Sweden

Aug 2021 – June 2022

University of Malta

B.Sc. Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence

Msida, Malta

Oct 2018 – June 2021

Awards and Fellowships

SCI Fellowship University of Pittsburgh

2024 – 2025

Pathfinder Scholarship Malta's Digital Innovation Authority

2021 – 2022

First Class Honours University of Malta

2021

Papers

Aquilina, A. and Abela, C. **Predicting links in a social network based on recognised personalities.** In *Proceedings of the 37th ACM/SIGAPP Symposium on Applied Computing, SAC '22*, New York, NY, USA, 2022. Association for Computing Machinery.

Aquilina, A., Diacono, S., Papapetrou, P., and Movin, M. **An end-to-end workflow using topic segmentation and text summarisation methods for improved podcast comprehension**, 2023. [arXiv:2307.13394](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.13394).

Industry Experience

Loqus Business Intelligence

AI Engineer

San Ġwann, Malta

Sep 2023 – July 2024

- Led new AI initiatives within the company, including the development of a customer-facing chatbot designed to answer questions related to deliveries.

Sambla Group

Data Scientist

Stockholm, Sweden

Nov 2022 – May 2023

- Leveraged NLP methods to cluster and summarise vast amounts of textual data to provide key insights for a cost-saving business strategy (30% cost reduction).
- Applied ranking methods to improve the accuracy and NDCG of user-item recommendation systems.

Ascent

Junior Data Scientist

Luqa, Malta

July 2021 – August 2022

- Contributed to the development of an item recommendation system in collaboration with a high-profile client in the beverage industry.

Junior Software Engineer

July 2019 – April 2020

- Assisted with the development and improvement of internal web and mobile applications.

University of Malta

Junior Software Engineer

Msida, Malta

July 2020 – Sep 2020

- Mentor: Alexiei Dingli
- Developed a game editor using Python, OpenCV, and Unity to assist a game development project within the Department of Artificial Intelligence.

Foundation for Educational Services

Centre Coordinator IT Assistant

Qormi, Malta

July 2018 – Sep 2018

- Optimised data input processes using Java within an educational centre providing after school services to children.

Service

Conference Reviewer: Discovery Science (2024)

IAESTE Incoming Officer: Assisted foreign students moving to Malta for an internship, ensuring they are kept in contact with their employers and up to date with the required documentation. (2020 – 2021)