

ARSLAN AZAD, PH.D

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Data-driven strategist with Ph.D.-level expertise in predictive modeling, machine learning, and network analysis, translating complex data into business impact. Proven ability to optimize decision-making, uncover growth opportunities, and drive operational efficiencies through advanced analytics.
- Recognized for delivering measurable outcomes in academic research (top-tier publications) and industry consulting, leveraging AI and automation to enhance organizational capabilities. Skilled in simplifying complex problems, leading analytics-driven initiatives, and influencing key stakeholders to make data-backed decisions.

CORE SKILLS

- Data-Driven Strategy & Decision-Making – Turn complex datasets into clear, actionable insights to drive growth, improve operations, and enhance customer engagement.
- Predictive Analytics & Machine Learning – Build models that anticipate trends, mitigate risks, and optimize performance using experimental design, forecasting, and NLP.
- Business Intelligence & Storytelling – Translate analytics into compelling narratives, using Tableau, Power BI, and Excel to drive executive alignment and decision-making.
- Technology & AI Innovation – Deploy Python, R, SQL, and Generative AI (LangChain) to automate workflows and improve efficiency.
- Stakeholder & Project Management – Align cross-functional teams, gather requirements, and bridge data science with business strategy through structured problem-solving.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University Lecturer

University of South Australia | Feb 2025 – Present

- Teach Statistical Methods, Social Media Analytics, and Machine Learning, applying real-world problem-solving.
- Design industry-aligned curricula, integrating case studies and hands-on projects to bridge academia and business needs.
- Mentor teams on Capstone Projects, guiding students toward analytics careers.
- Advance Generative AI in education, leveraging LangChain for AI-driven learning solutions.
- Strengthen industry partnerships, ensuring course relevance to evolving market needs.

PhD Researcher, Data Science (Part-time)

University of South Australia | Jul 2021 – Dec 2024

- Upskilled 250+ students in data science, improving analytical thinking and problem-solving.
 - Achieved 80%+ satisfaction and 90%+ retention; recognized for high-impact teaching.
- Enhanced global healthcare strategy, analyzing data for the Geneva Learning Foundation to optimize COVID-19 immunization training for 4,000+ professionals.
 - Shaped policy improvements, co-authoring a data-driven report that informed global training strategies.

Freelance Consultant (Part-time) - Profile

Fiverr | Apr 2016 – Jul 2018

- Grant & Proposal Writing: Generated 177+ successful proposals for 501(c)(3) nonprofits (USD 10K–500K funding range), achieving a 99% satisfaction rating.
- Business Impact: Created ROI-driven proposals, securing repetitive engagements and expanding client portfolios across 12%+ of countries globally.

PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT

- Ph.D. Research – Developed predictive models (Python, C++) to analyze structured/unstructured data and forecast team behaviors with high accuracy.
- AI in Education – Integrated multi-modal analytics, expanding lab datasets for enhanced evidence-based insights.
- Cost Reduction Initiative – Negotiated partnerships with 3 institutions, cutting transcription costs by ~80% while sustaining 95%+ accuracy.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Data Science & AI

University of South Australia (2021 – 2024)

- Achievements: 3 top-tier publications; Collaborations with labs in the UK & Germany

Postgraduate Diploma of Data Science

University of South Australia (2019 – 2020)

- International Merit Scholarship

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Hons.)

NUST University, Pakistan (2014 – 2018)

- Fully Funded Scholarship, 2× Dean's Recognition Scholarships

RECOGNITION

- Winner team, Oxford Style Parliamentary Research Debate (2024)
- People's Choice Award, 3MT Research Pitch (2024)
- Finalist, AIIA iAwards for Industry Innovation (2024)
- 2× Volunteer Recognition Award (Gold), NUSTIANUSA (2023, 2020)
- Doctoral Consortium Scholarship, LAK23 (2023)
- Thyne Reid Fully Funded PhD Scholarship (2023)
- Ambassador Award for Fast Learning, UniSA International (2020)

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- VP Placement, NUST Alumni Association Australia
- Career Coaching Lead, NUSTIANUSA
- Chairperson, IEEE MCS Student Branch
- Founder, Zariah – a charity equipping underprivileged communities with entrepreneurial skills

ADDITIONAL INFO

- Languages: English, Urdu
- Interests: Hiking, writing, public speaking and debating, content creation (YouTube).