Ashley Christendat

(647) - 522 - 4515 ● achristendat@gmail.com

https://github.com/ashleychristen ● https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-christendat/

Education

University of Toronto September 2022 - June 2026 (Expected)

- Major in Computer Science and Cognitive Science - Computational Cognition Stream
- Minor in Psychology
- Dean's List Scholar (2024)

Experience

Provart Lab at UofT - Internship (May 2024 - Current)

Conducting a research project under the supervision of Dr. Provart and Vincent Lau

- Researched how large language models can help improve our understanding of plant genomes
- Worked with Meta's AI models using **PyTorch** to program the models on a dataset of around 10,000 genomes
- Utilized SciNet's Cedar homogeneous cluster to perform large-scale data analysis
- Leveraged **BERT's** models to verify the accuracy of Meta model outputs
- Submitted manuscript to Nucleic Acids Research (August 2024)

Extracurriculars

UofT Artificial Intelligence Group, Co-Leader of the Conference Team (October 2023 - Current)

- Coordinating logistics for conference with industry leaders, including venue selection and speaker invitations
- Overseeing a team of associates to provide instruction and guidance
- Took part in marketing and speaker outreach for the 2024 ConferenceX

Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Student Association, Member of the Admin Team (October 2023 - Current)

- Host biweekly office hours, providing guidance to students with questions about courses and program requirements

Recognized Study Group Leader (September 2022 - April 2024)

- Led a recognized study group for MAT135, MAT136, and COG250
- Hosted weekly meetings to discuss ideas from class with a group to help study effectively
- Fostered a collaborative learning environment, encouraging active participation to enhance understanding of complex topics

Projects

Music Therapy App, Python and Git (September 2024)

- Collaborated with a team of 4 people at Hack the North 2024
- Created an app integrating **Fitbit API** and **Spotify API** to recommend music based on heart rate and emotional state
- Developed the music therapy app in 36 hours using **React Native** and **Convex**

Spotify Statistics Tracker, Java and Git (September - December 2023)

- Collaborated with a team of 5 people
- Developed a tracker to update on a Spotify user's music listening history
- Applied Clean Architecture design patterns to ensure maintainability and facilitate team collaboration
- Utilized the **Spotify for Developers API** for seamless integration with Spotify's platform

Research Lab Website, WordPress (May - June 2023)

- Worked with a lab member on the creation of the website
- Designed and developed a website for a University of Toronto lab to showcase their research, methods and publications
- Implemented secure access for current lab students, creating login-protected sections to distribute private information

Racing Game, Python and PyGame (September - December 2021)

- Designed and developed a 2D racing game with core game mechanics such as collision detection and a reward system
- Integrated sound effects and animations to enhance player experience
- Conducted testing and debugging to ensure a smooth and bug-free game

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, C++, C, Shell Script, R, HTML, Javascript, React Native

Tools: GitHub, MongoDB, Pinecone, Convex

AI: LLaMa 3, LLaMa 2, PLLaMa, BERT, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Cohere