

AFRA FEYZA AKYUREK

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EDUCATION

- B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, Double Major in Computer Engineering** Sept 2013 - June 2018
Full-Merit Scholarship, Ranked 3rd in Computer Engineering, CGPA: 3.86
Koc University, Istanbul.
- M.Sc. in Statistics and Data Science** Sept 2018 - May 2019
Department of Statistics and Data Science, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.
- Ph.D. in Computer Science** Sept 2019 - Present
Department of Computer Science, Boston University, Boston.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

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| Skills | Natural language processing, statistical machine learning, deep learning, visualization |
| Programming | Python, R, Julia, Java, C#, C++, C |
| Tools | SQL, NoSQL, PySpark, CPLEX Optimizer |
| Interests | NLP, multi-modal learning, semi-supervised learning, applications in medicine and journalism |

RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant** September 2019 - Present
Department of Computer Science, Boston University
- Cross-lingual and low-resource-focused NLP research under the supervision of Prof. Derry Wijaya with applications to journalism.
- Internship** May 2019 - July 2019
Novartis Pharmaceutical Company, New Jersey, US
- Focusing on a high-dimensional statistical analysis of CAR-T therapy, a highly promising personalized immunotherapy for cancer under the supervision of Kapildeb Sen, Ph.D. I created an explainable predictive model for treatment efficacy, revealed outstanding findings and communicated them to clinical experts.
- Teaching Assistant** September 2018 - May 2019
Department of Statistics and Data Science, Carnegie Mellon
- 36-315 Graphics and Visualization
 - 36-350 Statistical Computing
- Undergraduate Research Assistant** February 2017 - December 2017
Department of Industrial Engineering, Koc University
- Statistical assessments of hand hygiene compliance and antibiotic use in Koc University Hospital.
 - Deploying R and Elasticsearch for data management, and Shiny to build a web application for easy surveillance.
- Operations Research Intern** June 2017 - August 2017
PlusOneMinusOne, Istanbul
- Using Java, I implemented meta-heuristic methods, including genetic algorithm and simulated annealing, to solve the optimization problem regarding cash management across ATM networks.
- Business Analytics Intern** June 2016-December 2016
LC Waikiki, Istanbul
- Completing two tasks: dispersion analysis of the goods in the logistics center using R and determining the optimum vehicle load factors for all routes throughout the logistics network with CPLEX Optimizer.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Ranked 3rd in Computer Engineering , completed the degree in one year, Koc University, Istanbul	2018
Best Senior Design Computer Eng. , Self-Driving Cars with Deep Reinforcement Learning	2018
Best Senior Design Industrial Eng. , Statistical Assessment of Antimicrobial Usage in American Hospital	2018
Vehbi Koc Scholar Award , Outstanding Academic Achievement, Koc University	Sept 2013 - June 2018
Arsel Scholar Award , ranked 1 st in admittance to the program, Koc University	Sept 2013 - June 2018
Turkish Premiership Scholar , five year funding for undergraduate studies, Istanbul	2013 - 2018
Society of Women Engineers Future Leader , Chicago USA	2015
31st Place in National University Entrance Exam amid 2 million takers in Turkey	2013

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Presenter at UNESCO International Symposium on Girls' Education in STEM, Bangkok	August 2017
Regional Finalist at HULT Prize \$1 million Social Entrepreneurship Competition, London	March 2017
Regional Finalist at HULT Prize \$1 million Social Entrepreneurship Competition, Dubai	March 2016
Chair , Society of Women Engineers, Koc University, Istanbul	June 2016 - June 2017
Minor in Entrepreneurship , Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.	July 2015
Volunteer , Make A Wish Turkey, Istanbul	September 2013 - June 2018
Volunteer , Young Guru Academy Leadership School, Istanbul	January 2015 - March 2016