

Ao Zhang

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Education

University of Edinburgh

BSc in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science

Sept 2023 – May 2027

- Third-year student with completed assessments in Reasoning and Agents, Foundations of Data Science, and Software Engineering and Professional Practice.

Beijing National Day School

Highschool Diploma

July 2020 – July 2023

- Graduated with an A* in four courses: maths, further maths, computer science, and physics at A-level and AS-Level (CAIE exam board).

Projects

Exploration of AI Approximations via Neural Architectural Search

- Developed a Python script using the MASE machine learning (ML) compiler to perform Neural Architectural Search (NAS). The script identifies optimal parameters for ML approximation algorithms by evaluating heuristics such as model delay and accuracy, then applies the selected algorithm with the optimized parameters, iterating through three methods: quantisation, pruning, and LoRA.

Software Developing Project

- Teamed up with three other students in the Software Engineering and Professional Practice course to walk through the software development process using Java.
- Led the team, set deadlines and distributed the work, which allowed the team to present high-quality work.

Data Science Project

- Incorporated data cleaning skills, data visualisation skills and Interaction Regression to the heat consumption of the Appleton Tower dataset and the temperature dataset to investigate if there is a difference in the heat consumption of the building during the regular years and the COVID-19 pandemic years.
- The result showed that there was an increase in the heat consumption of the building during the pandemic.

Activities

Lab Demonstrator

UoE

Sept 2024 – Dec 2024

- Enrolled as a lab demonstrator of the first-year university course Introduction to Computation, which is mainly about functional programming in Haskell for one semester.
- Guided students to understand core functional programming concepts and apply problem solving strategies.

infPALS Peer Leader

UoE Students' Association

Sept 2024 – Apr 2025

- Cooperated with two other leaders to plan and deliver educational sessions for peer students.
- Strengthened teamwork, task delegation, and presentation skills by explaining complex topics to diverse audiences.
- Enhanced communication and problem-solving abilities by assisting fellow students.

infPALS Senior Leader

UoE Students' Association

Aug 2025 – Present

- Co-managing the infPALS scheme and aiming for smooth operation.
- Designing session materials, conducting weekly leaders' meetings, and managing event logistics.
- Further developed leadership and organizational skills while creating effective, audience-targeted learning

material.

Internship

ICSA department, School of Informatics, UoE

June 2025 – July 2025

- Walked through the whole process of conducting a proper research, from literature review to implementation, developing a strong ability to analyze academic papers.
- Investigated state-of-the-art ML approximation methods, including quantisation, pruning, and LoRA.
- Acquired knowledge of ML libraries and develop skills in writing basic Neural Architecture Search (NAS) scripts.

Hack the Burgh

CompSoc

Mar 2025 – Mar 2025

- Achieved second prize in a challenge hosted by Viridien.
- Developed a program to upscale low-resolution satellite images using corresponding high-resolution LiDAR data.
- Collaborated in a fast-paced team environment to complete a complete project within the hackathon's timeframe.