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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to apply for the Assistant Manager, Model Validation Quant. I hold a PhD in Computational Finance and have hands-on experience building and running ML systems in regulated, data-heavy environments. I am excited about the chance to help your company deliver reliable and highly scalable solutions.

In my current role as a Software Engineer at the University of Essex, I build AI systems that use large language models together with cloud data pipelines to automate business data collection and validation. The range of projects includes LLM-based data extraction and checking, as well as fully automated CI/CD pipelines which allow clients to deploy their solutions in a safe and repeatable way. Before this, at the UK Data Service, I built Python and JavaScript applications integrating and fine-tuning LLMs (with vLLM and Ollama) to automate metadata processing, disclosure-risk checks and data quality control for sensitive research data. These tools helped non-technical users work faster while still meeting strict security and governance rules.

My academic background also fits this role well. During my PhD in Computational Finance, I built a transfer-learning-based Bayesian Model Averaging system to model predictions of financial variables, published papers in international computer science journals, and released open-source software that other developers now use. I am comfortable moving from research and testing into building stable, production-ready systems.

Alongside my professional work, I built and deployed a personal OCR project for Magic: The Gathering cards that is used by around 50 users per day. The system runs on a Raspberry Pi and uses Python and C++ to scan card images, recognize text, and match it against a PostgreSQL database to return live market prices through a web interface built in JavaScript using Vite and React. This project gave me hands-on experience with end-to-end Computer Vision development, from data processing to deployment on real hardware.

I am especially interested in this role because it covers the full process: from getting and exploring data, to building models, writing software and deploying it in the cloud. My experience with LLMs, NLP, C++, Python and AWS has prepared me to work closely with both technical and business teams and to deliver modelling systems that solve real problems.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application.

Kind regards,

Ivan Evdokimov