JIHAD FTOUNY

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Summary

AI Instructor & ML Specialist with expertise in AI/ML, Deep Learning, and Data Science. Developed and delivered bootcamps and trainings for Microsoft, AUB, SDAIA, L'Oréal, USJ, and G42 Inception. Skilled in curriculum design, mentorship, and capstone supervision, empowering 700+ learners with job-ready skills. Recognized for empathy-driven teaching, problem-solving, leadership and technical fluency in Python, TensorFlow, NLP, CV, and AWS.

Professional/Project Experience

ZAKA AI - LEBANON   SEP 2023 – PRESENT
AI Instructor
• Delivered AI/ML bootcamps, certifications, and corporate trainings for global partners including Microsoft, L'Oréal, USJ, AUB, SDAIA, G42, and Michel Daher Foundation.
• Facilitated 500+ learners in interactive cohorts of 8–70 participants; blended virtual and in-person delivery with 90%+ learner satisfaction.
• Designed and adapted curricula, integrating hands-on labs, real-world case studies, and project-based assignments for applied learning.
• Produced pre-recorded lectures, demos, and interactive activities, enabling scalable and flexible learning across programs.
• Led office hours, one-on-one coaching, and career-prep sessions, guiding students on AI projects and funding proposals.
• Mentored 20+ capstone project teams; 10–20% achieved employment or internships in data science and machine learning roles.
• Developed instructional guides that streamlined lecture demonstrations and improved teaching efficiency across programs.
• Created hands-on demos and instructional labs showcasing AI tools, simplifying complex data science and machine learning concepts, and building automation workflows with Zapier and Make.com.
• Onboarded and trained new instructors and industry experts, ensuring alignment with ZAKA's curriculum standards and delivery methodology.
• Partnered with industry experts and stakeholders to align curricula with AI workforce needs and enterprise training goals.
• Developed the AI Starter Kit (AUB) training, and trainings for SDAIA and G42 Inception, enhancing institutional AI capacity.
• Awarded "AI Instructor of the Year" (2024) for outstanding teaching impact, mentorship, and program excellence.

CHATGPT TEXT DETECTOR, ZAKA AI GRADUATION PROJECT
https://gptector-flask.onrender.com/
• Designed a machine learning–based web application to detect AI-generated text.
• Engineered data pipelines, NLP preprocessing, and feature extraction using Pandas, NLTK, Scikit-Learn, and Word2Vec.
• Trained and optimized models (Logistic Regression, XGBoost, Random Forest, SVM) achieving high classification accuracy.
• Built an interactive Flask interface, ensuring usability for technical and non-technical users.

TECH FOR ACCESSIBILITY HACKATHON 2023, TALAL & MADIHA ZEIN AUB INNOVATION PARK
https://tinyurl.com/aub-hackathon
• Led a multidisciplinary team to develop an accessibility solution for the visually impaired.
• Implemented real-time object detection with YOLOv8 and hardware integration using Arduino microcontrollers.
• Leveraged Roboflow API and rapid prototyping to deliver a working MVP in under a week.

ELVISH ROOTINGS, GLOBAL GAME JAM 2023
https://bramevet.itch.io/elvish-rootings
• Designed and launched a fully functional RPG game prototype in 48 hours.
• Built core mechanics, optimized UI, and conducted iterative playtesting to ensure engaging gameplay and difficulty balance.

Education

AWS Certification - AI Practitioner FEB 2025
Amazon Web Services
• Validated foundational expertise in AI, machine learning, and generative AI concepts with practical industry applications.
• Skilled in identifying and applying the right AWS AI/ML services (SageMaker, Bedrock, Comprehend, Lex, Polly) for business use cases.
• Demonstrated knowledge of responsible AI practices, including bias mitigation, governance, security, and compliance in AI systems.

AI Certification - Machine Learning Specialization AUG 2023
ZAKA AI
• Awarded "Fastest Deep-Learner" distinction.
• Mastered supervised & unsupervised ML, DL, CNNs, RNNs, NLP, and CV applications.

Lebanese International University, BEIRUT, Lebanon SEP 2019 – JUN 2023
B.Sc. in Computer Science
• **Core Coursework:** Calculus II; Linear Algebra; Discrete Mathematics; Probability & Statistics; Numerical Methods; Computer Science Overview; Intro to Computers.
• **Major Studies:** Programming (Intro & OOP with Java); Data Structures & Algorithms; Database Systems; Networking Technologies; Web Programming; Software Engineering; Operating Systems; Computer Architecture; Machine Learning; Artificial Intelligence; Information Systems Development.
• **Specialization Electives:** Game Development; Robotics Design & Coding; Natural Language Processing; Network Security; Advanced Web & Mobile Development.

Skills

Programming & ML Frameworks: *Python, TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-Learn, Numpy, Pandas, PyTorch (basic), Matplotlib, Seaborn*

Machine Learning & Deep Learning: *Regression, Classification, Clustering, Reinforcement Learning, CNNs, RNNs, LSTM*

NLP & CV: *Word2Vec, NLTK, OpenCV, Sentiment Analysis, Machine Translation, Object Detection (YOLOv8)*

Cloud & Backend: *AWS S3, Elastic Beanstalk, SQL, MongoDB, NodeJS, Express, Linux*

Frontend: *Angular, HTML, CSS, TypeScript, Bootstrap*

Tools: *Tableau, Git/GitHub, Kaggle, Google Colab, Arduino, Photoshop*

Soft Skills: *Public Speaking, Adaptive Thinking, Leadership, Rapid Learning, Communication, Decision Making, Friendliness, Innovation, Negotiating, Creative Insights*

Languages

Portuguese (Native) • English (Fluent) • Arabic (Intermediate) • Spanish (Conversational)

Interests

AI Education • Mindfulness & Meditation • Psychology & Business • Game Design • Board Games & Dungeons & Dragons