

Joud El-Shawa

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Education

Western University

Sept 2019 – Apr 2024

Honors Bachelor of Science

Specialization in Computer Science

Entrance Scholarship valued at \$10 000 for an average of 95%

RBC Scholarship in Data Science valued at \$25 000

Dean's Honor List all years to present – GPA: 4.0/4.0

Relevant Coursework:

- Data Structures & Algorithms – 100%
- Introduction to Machine Learning – 100%
- Databases I – 96%
- Artificial Intelligence I – 97%

Work Experience

Researcher – NSERC

May 2023 – Aug 2023

- Conducted AI research under the supervision of Dr. Yalda Mohsenzadeh to develop and apply autoencoder neural networks for tumour detection in brain MRI scans, thereby reducing the need for extensive datasets as this is an unsupervised approach.

Data Scientist – RBC

Sept 2022 – Apr 2023

- Worked in a team of data scientists to create solutions for business problems.

Data Scientist – RBC Amplify

May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Collaborated in a team of two developers and a business analyst in an intensive innovation program to create a solution for youth financial literacy in the RBC Student Edition mobile application.

Machine Learning Fellow – CIFAR-OSMO AI4Good Lab

May 2021 – Oct 2021

- Created **SoQuo** using knowledge acquired by participating in a **machine learning** training program that covers topics such as neural networks, natural language processing (NLP), and reinforcement learning.

Student Researcher – IBM

May 2021 – Aug 2021

- Investigated risk prediction of software system failures and evaluated **machine learning** model stability for software bug prediction as part of the **Western University Undergraduate Student Research Internship (USRI)** under the supervision of Dr. Konstantinos Kontogiannis.
- Created a [research poster](#) summarizing findings and providing direction on next steps.

Projects

SoQuo

June 2021 – Present

- Collaborated in a team of five to create an application that enhances a user's social media experience by identifying and creating awareness about specific content that has the potential to impact their mental health.
- Used **Python's NLP** and **Random Forest** libraries to classify tweets into categories.
- Won the **AI4Good Lab Edmonton Accelerator Award**, which gave us the opportunity to write an [article](#) about SoQuo and explore different cloud platforms to store our models.

Bank Yeller

Nov 2021

- Collaborated with a teammate to create a program using **DashaScript** and **Javascript** that allows users to voice chat with an AI assistant to get their latest bank account information and be able to pay their bills vocally.
- Created the AI assistant that uses Natural Language Understanding with the help of Dasha AI and deployed an SQL Database on Google Cloud Platform to mimic a bank's database and demonstrate how this would work in everyday life.
- Won the **Best Use of Dasha AI** category at Hack Western 8.

ViewTheWorld – grade received: 100%

Feb 2021 – Apr 2021

- Led a team of five using an **Agile** software development approach, creating a program that allows the user to retrieve and visualize environment and health data for a selected country from the World Bank's data repository.
- Worked in **sprints** to deliver the specification, design, implementation, and testing of the system.
- Created **UML Diagrams** with Design Patterns such as Singleton, Strategy, Factory, Proxy, and Observer for the specification and design, and used **Java** with **HTTP GET requests** for the implementation and testing.

Extracurriculars

Conference Organizer – UWO Research in Computer Science

Dec 2023 – Present

- Planned logistics within budget constraints, designed logos and posters, and strategized innovative approaches to increase our online presence.

Vice President of Marketing – Women in Technology Society

Apr 2023 – Present

- Led a team of 7 in implementing innovative engagement strategies, significantly increasing our online following in just a few months.
- Introduced initiatives to diversify our digital presence, assigning dedicated roles for our podcast, blog, and social media platforms, thereby enhancing our outreach and impact in the tech community.

Ada Mentor – Women in Technology Society

Oct 2021 – Apr 2022

- Mentored a group of first and second year computer science students creating an AI app for retail assistance.