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November 26, 2025

Hiring Manager

CommBank

Melbourne CBD, VIC

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Lead Data Scientist (Senior Manager) position at CommBank. With a Ph.D. in Engineering and over three years of industry experience in Data Science and AI Engineering, I am eager to contribute my expertise to a company at the forefront of AI innovation and committed to delivering customer-centric solutions.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a strong capacity for leadership and strategic impact. In my current role as Computational Data Scientist at CSL Limited and previously as a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, I have consistently led projects, managed stakeholders, and provided strategic direction to ensure alignment with business objectives. This includes leading weekly meetings to foster collaboration and review progress, similar to my role as Deputy Chair of the Early and Mid-Career Researcher Committee, where I also contributed to mentorship and strategic planning.

My technical proficiency encompasses designing and implementing advanced machine learning

solutions, including the development of hybrid models that integrate data-driven approaches with mechanistic frameworks. I have significant hands-on experience in Generative AI, notably developing a CSL chatbot leveraging RAG for context-aware SQL query generation and creating a RAG-based system for the 6,000+ page ANSYS user guide to significantly enhance search efficiency. My skills extend to Large Language Models (LLMs), Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), and frameworks such as PyTorch. I am also keen on deploying AI models into production and scalable systems, backed by my experience with AWS cloud services including S3, EC2, and Lambda.

My robust programming skills, particularly in Python (NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib) and SQL (MySQL), are foundational to my ability to build scalable and reliable end-to-end solutions. I have optimized cloud-based ETL pipelines by developing API endpoints and SQL queries for efficient data extraction and delivery to stakeholders, and I possess experience with tools like Docker and FastAPI, which further enable the creation of robust systems.

I pride myself on my excellent communication and storytelling skills, coupled with strong stakeholder management abilities. I have a proven track record of translating complex technical concepts for diverse audiences, collaborating closely with stakeholders, and leading meetings to ensure clarity and shared understanding. My results-driven approach is reflected in quantifiable achievements, such as developing multi-scale digital twins that reduced reliance on physical experiments, saving tens of thousands of dollars per run, and improving bioprocess performance by up to 30%.

My strong academic background, including a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Applied Mathematics, provides a solid foundation for advanced data science and AI roles. While my direct financial services experience is limited, my career demonstrates a proven ability to quickly learn and adapt to new domains, applying sophisticated analytical and problem-solving skills across complex challenges in medical, bioprocess, and engineering

applications.

I am highly enthusiastic about the Lead Data Scientist role and the opportunity to contribute to CommBank's pioneering efforts in AI. I am confident that my leadership capabilities, technical expertise in advanced machine learning and Generative AI, and strong communication skills make me an ideal candidate to contribute significantly to your team. Thank you for your consideration; I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Sincerely,

Mariia Timofeeva