

# Mustafa Aslan

PhD Researcher • Data Scientist

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## EDUCATION

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### PhD in Probabilistic Modeling for Healthcare Management and Operations

Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK

Oct 2024 — Present.

- Recipient of WGSSS-ESRC Studentship Award
- Project focused on enhancing discharge planning process using probabilistic modelling
  - Supervisors: [Prof Bahman Rostami-Tabar](#), [Dr. Jeremy Dixon](#)

### MSc in Financial Mathematics

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Oct 2017 — Aug 2021

- **Dissertation:** Effects of Exchange Rate Volatility and Firm-Specific Features on the Rates of Returns of the Manufacturing Firms Listed in Borsa İstanbul: A CAPM Approach
  - Statistical&Machine learning techniques used: Markov Switching GARCH Models, ARIMA, Panel Data Econometrics, Principal Component Analysis

### BSc in Business Administration

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Oct 2011 — Aug 2015

## TEACHING

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### Training sessions for [Data Lab for Social Good Research Group](#) members

- Introduction to Python and Quarto on Visual Studio Code Mar 2025
- Introduction to Dynamic Programming and Reinforcement Learning May 2025

## WORK EXPERIENCES

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### Reporting and Data Analytics Executive

AKBANK (a leading bank in Turkey), Istanbul

Jun 2022 — Sep 2024

- Applied time-series forecasting and machine learning techniques, including ARIMA, Bayesian Time Series, Prophet, ANN, LSTM, Random Forest, LightGBM and XGBoost, to historical data for making long-horizon forecasts of daily customer call volume. The best model achieved over 94% accuracy (1-MAPE) in forecasting all days of the next month.
- Implemented machine learning models (e.g., XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost) to predict customer behavior with an over recall rate of 70% and an accuracy rate of 85%, enabling fewer customer complaints and increase sales by 14%.
- Analyzing large amounts of data to identify trends and find patterns, signals and hidden stories within customer calls data.
- Applied machine learning techniques (Z-score, IsolationForest) to detect anomalies.
- Applied unsupervised machine learning techniques (DBSCAN, Gaussian mixture, K-means) to cluster customers.
- Hyperparameter tuning for machine learning models using Hyperopt, Optuna and KerasTuner.

## Research Associate

**The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (Think Tank), Ankara**

*Jan 2022 — Apr 2024*

- Determined areas of research to increase knowledge in the particular field.
- Utilizing inferential statistics such as hypothesis testing (e.g., t-test, ANOVA test, population proportion test), confidence intervals, correlation analysis and regression analysis to make inferences and draw conclusions about data.
- Developed statistical models (regression analysis, panel data modeling) for regional development projects to contribute to data-driven decisions.

## Senior Process Development Analyst

**ETI GIDA Inc (a major FMCG player in Turkey), Eskisehir**

*Jun 2019 — Jan 2022*

- Interacted with internal customers to understand business needs and translate into requirements and project scope.
- Assessed the impact of current business processes on users and stakeholders and evaluated potential areas for improvement.
- Maintained strong working knowledge of ERP (SAP), CRM and business intelligence tools and operational features.

## Internal Auditor

**Turk Telekom Inc. (the telecom giant of Turkey), Ankara**

*Nov 2015 — Jun 2019*

- Performed strategic planning, execution and finalization of audits using data analytics and critical thinking skills.
- Investigated discrepancies discovered during the auditing process.
- Recommended new methods to improve internal controls and operating efficiency.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Healthcare analytics
- Data-driven decision making
- Statistical learning and Machine learning
- Reinforcement learning and stochastic optimization in decision making
- Time series forecasting
- Probabilistic forecasting
- Conformal prediction

## SKILLS & EXPERTISE

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**Expertise:** Mathematical and Statistical Modeling, Machine Learning, Time Series Analysis and Forecasting, Stochastic Optimization and Reinforcement Learning, Statistical and Explanatory Data Analysis, web scraping in Python

**Programming:**  Python  SQL

**Reporting:**  Quarto  Advanced Excel  QlikView  SAS

**Languages** English (Fluent), Kurdish (Native), Turkish (Native)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- Certification:
  - [Data Science: Machine Learning, HarvardX \(edX\)](#)
- Books (some of my go-to books):

- Forecasting: Principles and Practice (Hyndman et al, 2021)
- Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in R (Tibshirani et al, 2019)
- The Elements of Statistical Learning (Tibshirani et al, 2008)
- Probabilistic Machine Learning: An Introduction (Murphy, 2022)
- Reinforcement Learning: An Introduction (Barto et al, 2018)
- Reinforcement Learning and Stochastic Optimization (Powell, 2022)
- A Student's Guide to Bayesian Statistics (Lambert, 2018)
- Dive into deep learning (Zhang, 2022)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

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|---|-----------------|
| • Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences (WGSSS) Studentship Award | <i>Aug 2024</i> |
| • NATCOR Bursaries / EURO Funding for Stochastic Modelling                | <i>Mar 2025</i> |

## **REFERENCES**

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Available upon request