

# Alex Santonastaso

London, UK | +44 7570 280428 | [alex@santonastaso.com](mailto:alex@santonastaso.com) | [GitHub](https://github.com/santonastaso) | [santonastaso.tech](https://santonastaso.tech)

## EDUCATION

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### QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Master of Science, Distinction

Big Data Science with Machine Learning Systems

Relevant Coursework: Big Data Processing, Cloud Computing, Data Mining, Deep Learning, Machine Learning Deployment

London, UK

Jan 2022 - Jan 2023

### UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Bachelor of Science, First Class Honours

Computer Science

Relevant Coursework: Object Oriented Programming, Database Systems, Client Server Architecture, Web Development

London, UK

Sep 2018 - Sep 2021

### LICEO SCIENTIFICO ALESSANDRO MANZONI

Diploma of Higher Education

Relevant Coursework: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Natural Sciences

Caserta, Italy

Sep 2013 - Sep 2018

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Teaching Assistant

London, UK

Oct 2023 – Apr 2024

- Conducted hands-on lab sessions for Big Data Science and Principles of Machine Learning Master's modules, guiding students through practical applications and real world scenarios
- Offered one-on-one assistance to students, providing valuable insights for individual projects and assignments
- Developed and delivered clear, concise presentations to communicate complex concepts, ensuring student comprehension and engagement
- Contributed to creating an engaging learning environment to enhance the overall educational experience

## UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

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### AUTOMATED FACIAL EMOTION RECOGNITION

- Implemented facial emotion recognition using GoogLeNet Convolutional Neural Network architecture, achieving a 60% recognition accuracy on a deployment dataset
- Conducted data preparation and pre-processing of Aff-Wild2 dataset, including face detection, face alignment, data augmentation, image duplicates removal
- Added blur to the dataset and trained a second model, capable of emotion recognition of blurred images

### ETHEREUM BLOCKCHAIN DATA ANALYSIS

- Performed analysis on the raw high volume data of Ethereum blockchain by implementing a set of Hadoop and PySpark Map/Reduce operations such as top K, aggregation, moving window technique
- Implemented data visualisation of the analysis using matplotlib and Seaborn

### AUDIO CLASSIFICATION WITH MACHINE LEARNING

- Built Machine Learning pipeline for a binary classification task, that learns how to predict a song label of an audio segment
- Extracted features from raw .wav audio segments using signal processing functions obtained from the Librosa library
- Implemented cross-validation and grid search to further improve model performance and reduce overfitting

## SKILLS

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**Programming:** Python, Java, C#, SQL, R

**Frameworks:** NumPy, Pandas, Pytorch, Tensorflow, Hadoop, Spark, matplotlib, scikit-learn

**Developer Tools:** Jupyter Notebook, VS Code, Git, MS Office, Google Cloud Platform, AWS

**Languages:** English, Italian