Professional Portfolio Guide for Data Analyst / Data Science Students

A COMPLETE STEP-BY-STEP BLUEPRINT TO SHOWCASE YOUR SKILLS & GET HIRED

1. Purpose of a Portfolio

- Showcase your skills: coding, analysis, visualization.
- Demonstrate your thought process and business insights.
- Highlight tools, projects, and practical experience.
- Make it easy for recruiters to assess your fit.

2. Choose the Right Platform

- GitHub Code hosting and documentation.
- LinkedIn Professional visibility.
- Personal Website Central hub for all content.
- Medium/Substack Write blog-style project walkthroughs.
- Tableau Public / Kaggle Dashboards and competitions.

3. Essential Portfolio Components

- ► About Me Brief professional summary.
- Skills Tools and technologies you know.
- Projects Showcase complete, well-documented projects.
- Blog/Write-ups Storytelling and communication.

4. How to Structure Projects

- Clear Title & Problem Overview
- Dataset Source and Tools Used
- Step-by-step Analysis (EDA, Modeling, etc.)
- Visuals: Charts, Dashboards, Screenshots
- Business Insight / Summary
- GitHub Link with README

5. Project Ideas by Skill Level

- Beginner: Excel Sales Dashboard, COVID-19 Trends
- Intermediate: SQL + Python ETL, Power BI Dashboard
- Advanced: ML Prediction, Web Scraping, Streamlit App
- Aim for 4–6 projects showing different skills

6. GitHub Best Practices

- Organize each project in its own folder
- Include README with project summary, tools, results
- Use images folder for screenshots or charts
- Use requirements.txt for Python projects

7. Build a Personal Website

- Use GitHub Pages
- Add About, Projects, Blog, Contact Sections
- ▶ Link GitHub and LinkedIn
- Make it mobile responsive

8. Optimize LinkedIn

- Use a professional photo and custom banner
- Write a strong title (e.g., Data Analyst | Python | SQL)
- Post about your projects with visuals
- Add GitHub/Portfolio to Featured section

9. Resume and Certifications

- Keep it to 1 page, focused on skills and projects
- Include GitHub/Portfolio links
- Mention certifications: Google, IBM, Microsoft, etc.
- Customize per job role

10. Share and Market Your Work

- Post regularly on LinkedIn
- Write blog posts explaining your projects
- Join Kaggle, Reddit, Discord, Facebook groups
- Collaborate with others

Final Portfolio Checklist

- 4–6 well-structured projects
- GitHub with clean READMEs
- Published dashboards (Power BI/Tableau)
- Blog posts or Medium articles
- Personal website with About, Projects, Contact
- Updated LinkedIn and Resume