

Saúl Vargas

Nationality: Spanish **Place of residence:** Tallinn (Estonia)

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🔗 Experience

Veriff (identity verification and KYC provider)

January 2022 – Present

Senior Data Scientist

Tallinn, Estonia

- Document image quality detection: developed a computer vision model that accurately detects issues during image capture (blur, glare, out of frame, etc.).

Infogrid (IoT/smart buildings startup)

January 2021 – December 2021

Senior Data Scientist

Tallinn, Estonia

- Healthy buildings (sensor-based insights for improving comfort in office spaces): run a successful pilot with customers, currently developing a full-fledged system to create new value for customers.
- Others: setting up data collection pipelines (weather data), setting up infrastructure (Terraform), deployment of machine learning models (MLFlow, TensorFlow, AWS SageMaker).

Bolt (ride hailing & food delivery)

August 2020 – January 2021

Senior Data Scientist

Tallinn, Estonia

- Order conversion and customer churn: lead a project to estimate the impact of driver quality on those, the findings were used to prioritise initiatives at the company level.
- OCR (OpenCV, Tesseract): developed algorithms to extract data from scanned documents, which saved thousands of hours of manual labour and allowed the company to comply with the regulations in one of their biggest markets.

ASOS.com (online fashion retailer)

March 2017 – December 2019

Senior Machine Learning Scientist

London, UK

- Recommendation algorithms (personalised product ranking and *you may also like* product recommendations): improved significantly the quality of our recommendations by implementing state of the art algorithms (TensorFlow) which increased sales and engagement (A/B testing).
- MLOps: lead several initiatives to adopt modern Machine Learning tools (Python, TensorFlow, Azure Machine Learning).
- Others: team roadmap definition, mentoring and management, promotion of our work in external events.

Mendeley/Elsevier (world's largest scientific publisher)

November 2015 – February 2017

Senior Data Scientist

London, UK

- Mendeley Suggest (recommendation of research papers): improved the relevance of recommendations by taking into account user's recent interests and previous interactions with recommendations.
- ScienceDirect's "related articles": developed a Spark-based implementation of an item-to-item collaborative filtering algorithm.

University of Glasgow

January 2015 – November 2015

Research Assistant

Glasgow, UK

🎓 Education

UAM - Autonomous University of Madrid

2012 – 2015

PhD Computer Science

Madrid, Spain

- Dissertation: [Novelty and Diversity Evaluation and Enhancement in Recommender Systems](#).
- Highly cited, peer-reviewed publications in top conferences such as SIGIR, RecSys & WSDM (see full list [here](#)).
- Developed [RankSys](#), a Java 8 Recommender Systems framework used in research labs around the globe.
- Research internships in University of Glasgow, Telefonica & Yahoo! Labs.

⚙️ Skills

Expertise Information Retrieval, Recommender Systems, Machine Learning, Software Engineering

Programming languages Python, Java, Scala, C

Tools & Technologies Spark, TensorFlow, Keras, MLFlow, fastAPI, Azure, AWS, Terraform