

# Saúl Vargas

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

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## 🔧 Experience

### Infogrid (IoT smart buildings startup)

Senior Data Scientist

January 2021 – Present

Tallinn, Estonia

- > Healthy buildings (sensor-based recommendations 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)

Senior Data Scientist

August 2020 – January 2021

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)

Senior Machine Learning Scientist

March 2017 – December 2019

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)

Senior Data Scientist

November 2015 – February 2017

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

Research Assistant

January 2015 – November 2015

Glasgow, UK

## 🎓 Education

### UAM - Autonomous University of Madrid

PhD Computer Science

2012 – 2015

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.

### UAM - Autonomous University of Madrid

MSc Computer Science

2010 – 2012

Madrid, Spain

### UAM - Autonomous University of Madrid

BSc Computer Science & BSc Mathematics

2005 – 2010

Madrid, Spain

## ⚙️ 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

**Languages** English, Spanish, German