Shamsuddeen Hassan Muhammad, PhD

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Education

2023 **Ph.D. in Computer Science, University of Porto, Portugal**.
Thesis Title: *Domain-Specific and Context-Aware Approaches to Sentiment Analysis*.
Main Supervisor: *Pavel Brazdil*
Co-Supervisor: *Alípio Jorge*

2013 **M.Sc. in Computer Science, University of Manchester, UK**.
Dissertation Title: *Error-Correcting Codes in Wireless Communication*.
Supervisor: *Barry Cheetham*

2009 **B.Sc. in Computer Science, Bayero University, Kano**.

Academic and Research Experience

2025 – · · · **Visiting Professor (Natural Language Processing & Large Language Models)**
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), South Africa

Visiting Professor (Natural Language Processing & Large Language Models)
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), Cameroon

2023 – · · · **Advanced Research Fellow**
Imperial College London, UK

Google DeepMind Academic Fellow
Imperial College London, UK

Visiting Lecturer
York St John University, UK

2020 – 2023 **NLP Researcher**
INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

2012 – · · · **Faculty Member (promotion through Lecturer → Lecturer I → Assistant Professor / Senior Lecturer)**
Department of Computer Science, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

Research Interest

Computational Social Science: Sentiment Analysis, Hate Speech Detection, Emotion Analysis

Low-Resource Languages: Dataset Creation, Data Annotation, LLM Evaluation, and Adaptation

Multilingual NLP: Enhancing Models for Underrepresented Languages and Cultures

Awards

2025   **ACL 2025** *Best Resource Paper Award* — BRIGHTER: Textual Emotion Recognition Datasets for 28 Languages.

SemEval 2025 *Best Task Paper Award* — Task 11: Bridging the Gap in Text-Based Emotion Detection.

NAACL 2025 *Outstanding Paper Award* — IrokoBench: A New Benchmark for African Languages in the Age of LLMs.

Deep Learning Indaba 2025 *Best Paper Award* — The State of Large Language Models for African Languages.

2024   **NeurIPS 2024 (C3NLP Workshop)** *Best Non-archival Paper Award* — BLEnD: Everyday Knowledge in Diverse Cultures and Languages.

SemEval 2024 Honourable Mention — *Best Task Paper* (Semantic Textual Relatedness Task).

2023   **AfricaNLP 2023 (Kigali)** *Best Non-archival Paper Award* — AfriSenti: A Twitter Sentiment Analysis Benchmark for African Languages.

IJCNLP–AACL 2023 *Area Chair Award* — MasakhaNER: Named Entity Recognition for African Languages.

2020   **EMNLP 2020 (Findings)** *Wikimedia Research Award* — Participatory Research for Low-resourced Machine Translation.

Grants, Fellowships & Honors

Research Grants

2023   **Principal Investigator (PI):** Nigerian AI Research Grant — Automatic Offensive Language Detection for Nigerian Languages   (5 000 000 NGN)

2022   **PI:** Artificial Intelligence for Education Innovation Research Network in Africa   (40,000 USD)

PI: Lacuna Fund 2021 Language Datasets Award — Development of Hate Speech Dataset for African Languages   (147,000 USD)

2021   **PI:** Lacuna Fund 2020 Language Datasets Award — Development of Sentiment Analysis Dataset for African Languages   (60,000 USD)

PI: Lacuna Fund — SemEval Shared Task Support   (8,500 USD)

2022   **PI:** Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) Award   (50,000 USD)

Co-Investigator (Co-I): Lacuna Fund — Developing Nigerian Speech Corpus   (120,000 USD)

2023   **Co-PI:** Google Research *exploreCSR* Award   (18,000 USD)

Co-PI: Google Research *TensorFlow* Award   (10,000 USD)

2022   **Co-PI:** Google Research *exploreCSR* Award   (18,000 USD)

Co-PI: *TensorFlow* Award   (10,000 USD)

Grants, Fellowships & Honors (continued)

Fellowships & Scholarships

2024   Google DeepMind Academic Fellow at Imperial College London, UK

2022   Faculty of Science, University of Porto — PhD Scholarship   (52,000 EUR)

Jiangsu University (JSU), China — PhD Scholarship   (Declined)

2018   Nigerian TETFund — PhD Scholarship Award

NITDA — MSc Scholarship   (25,000 USD)

Kano State Government (Nigeria) — Postgraduate Scholarship (MSc in Computer Science)

Travel Awards

2022   Google Africa Travel Award   (3,000 USD)

RStudio Conference Travel Award   (1,500 USD)

EMNLP Conference Travel Award   (1,500 USD)

2018   Black in AI Travel Award to NeurIPS   (1,100 USD)

Honors

Second Best Graduating Student (Computer Science), Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

Teaching Experience

- Natural Language Processing: Visiting Lecturer, AI for Science, AIMS South Africa (2025)
- Natural Language Processing: Visiting Lecturer, AIMS Cameroon (2025)
- Artificial Intelligence Concept: Lecturer, York St John University, London Campus (2024)
- Machine Learning: Lecturer, York St John University, London Campus (2024)
- Machine Learning: Teaching Assistant, Imperial College London (2024)
- Natural Language Processing: Teaching Assistant, Imperial College London (2025)
- Deep Learning: Lead Teaching Assistant, NeuroMatch Academy (2023)
- Python Programming: Lecturer, Bayero University, Kano (2017)
- Data Structures and Algorithms: Lecturer, Bayero University, Kano (2016)
- Data Mining: Lecturer, Bayero University, Kano (2016)

Teaching Certificates

2019   **Teaching in Higher Education, University of Porto, Portugal**.
Certificate for teaching in higher education.

2020   **Certified Instructor, The Carpentries**.
Certified instructor in teaching foundational computational and data skills to researchers using R and Python programming languages.

Academic Service, Leadership & Community

University Service

- Imperial College London — Grant Review Committee Member
- Bayero University, Kano — Senate Member
- Bayero University, Kano — Faculty Examination Lead
- Bayero University, Kano — BSc Computer Science with Economics, Course Leader

Scholarly Community Service

- Area Chair — ACL Rolling Review (ARR)
- Program Committee / Reviewer — ACL, EMNLP, NAACL, COLING, LREC, AfricaNLP

Leadership & Organization

2022–···
- Founder — Arewa Data Science (arewadatascience.github.io)
  A community empowering underrepresented students to build careers in data science and AI through free training and mentorship.
- Founder — HausaNLP
  An open-source initiative advancing NLP for Hausa, one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa.
- Organizer / Chair — AfricaNLP Workshop series
- Task Organizer — SemEval Shared Tasks

Community & Outreach

2022–···
- Active Member — MasakhaneNLP
- Active Member — Black in AI