

Dear Sajjad,

Thank you for your email and for your interest in pursuing PhD study at the I appreciate the detailed introduction and your engagement with my research areas.

Your final-year project on medical image analysis, as well as your broader experience in applied AI and competitive programming, provide a good technical foundation for doctoral research in areas such as healthcare AI, multimodal learning, and explainable methods. It is encouraging to see your interest in clinically motivated problems.

At this stage, it would be helpful to understand a bit more about your funding situation, as this is an important factor in planning PhD supervision. Could you please let me know whether you are intending to apply for external scholarships, or whether you would be relying on departmental or project-based studentships?

In addition, I would encourage you to start thinking about the specific research topic or questions you would be most interested in working on at PhD level. A short outline (even a paragraph or two) describing the problem you wish to study and how it connects to my research would be very useful for any further discussion.

Once I have a clearer picture of your funding plans and research interests, I would be happy to advise on potential next steps.

My Ans

Dear Professor,

Thank you very much for your kind reply and for taking the time to review my background.

In terms of research interests, my core background and long-term interests are in AI, machine learning, computer vision, and NLP. During my participation in several international AI hackathons, many of the problem statements were healthcare-related, which gave me hands-on exposure to real clinical challenges. In one of these AI hackathons, our team won first place. This later evolved into my final-year project, *VisionCare AI*, which focuses on medical image analysis for disease detection and monitoring, with an emphasis on multimodal and explainable learning for clinical

decision support. Through this process, I became more interested in applied healthcare AI, especially building models that are reliable.

Regarding funding, I would like to be transparent at this stage. I am actively exploring PhD funding opportunities, including departmental or project-based studentships (such as RA or TA roles), and I am still learning how PhD funding typically works in the UK. I would therefore greatly value your advice on what options might be realistic within your group or department.

At the PhD level, I am keen to work on AI/ML and deep learning, particularly in areas connected to healthcare applications involving computer vision, NLP, and intelligent systems. I have outlined a PhD research proposal focusing on explainable, multimodal, and knowledge-guided AI for clinical decision support. While I have a clear research direction, I remain flexible regarding specific problem formulations and would greatly welcome the opportunity to refine the research questions and scope under your guidance, ensuring strong alignment with your ongoing research and available projects.

To support this, I have prepared a **short draft PhD research proposal**, which I have uploaded here for your reference:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iIEvC62t_a9mcVDyX1j0ta2rix6GBvrL/view?usp=sharing

I am also preparing a few simple slides outlining your research themes and my background work, mainly for discussion purposes.

If possible, I would be very grateful for a short meeting at your convenience to discuss research direction. I believe this would help me better understand how I could fit into your group.

Thank you again for your time and guidance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Sajjad Ahmad