

Yaser Alkayale

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Undergraduate student in computer science, honours, at Dalhousie university. graduating in May 2018 and looking to pursue graduate studies in Data Science starting Sept 2018.

EDUCATION

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | B.Sc COMPUTER SCIENCE HONOURS

Specialization in AI & Data Science

Expected June 2018 | Halifax, Nova Scotia • Cum. GPA: 4.0/4.3

- Seymour Schulich Scholar for Leadership (\$40,000 value)
- Andrew Mackay Alumni Scholar for Leadership across Dalhousie (\$2,000 value)
- Sexton Scholar, GPA above 3.9 (\$1,200 value)
- Dean's List (\$250 value)

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

Feb 2017 | Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Over 200 hours of entrepreneurial skills development

EXPERIENCE

DALHOUSIE & BOEING CANADA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

May 2017 - present | Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Co-supervised by Dr. Norbert Zeh and Dr. Vlado Keselj, worked with a team of Dalhousie PhD and Masters researchers to improve VitaSSD, a program for crash report data analytics and visualization.
- Developed advanced C++ skills, along with Python, CMake and CommandLine, by building analytical, visual and algorithmic tools.
- Project focused on improving the seeding process of K-means to improve robustness of K-means and cluster-validity. Paper will be published Spring 2018.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY INNOVATION FELLOW

Feb 2016 - present | Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Completed 6 months online and 4-days in-person design thinking & lean methodology training at The Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (D.School) at Stanford University with a team of 300+ fellows.
- Work with a network of 1000+ fellows on over 60 campuses across the world to utilize innovation and entrepreneurship for students in different disciplines.
- Lead projects to spread innovation and entrepreneurship across the Dalhousie campus and work on fostering the entrepreneurship spirit among all faculties.
- Co-founded the Dalhousie Entrepreneurship Society which gives students the tools and support they need to become entrepreneurs & innovators.

ALISAR INVESTMENTS HOLDINGS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Jan 2012 - Feb 2017 | Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Grew the company from the ground to over \$100,000 annual sales in the limousine, landscaping and snow removal sectors.
- Managed a team of 10 employees and developed an online strategy for the business by running social media campaigns.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jan 2016 – present | Halifax, NS

- Worked closely with students to improve their performance in the various subjects. This included a mixture of lecturing and assignment help.
- Senior instructor in the learning centre which supports students in all courses.
- Courses included:
 - Algorithms (Design and implementation, 3rd year level)
 - Principles of Programming Languages (Basics of compilers and language design, 3rd year level)
 - Rapid Prototyping for Innovation (Co-created with Dr. Vlado Keselj, 2nd year level)
 - Software Development (Unix, version control and C, 2nd year level)
 - Computer Science I (Introduction to programming with Java, 1st year level)
 - Computer Science II (Object oriented programming with Java, 1st year level)
 - Animated Computing (Game design and robotics using Scratch and Aseba, 1st year level)

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

May 2016 – Aug 2016 | Halifax, NS

- Worked on a project implementing an FPT algorithm for building phylogenetic trees using highly optimized C++ code.
- Co-supervised by Dr. Norbert Zeh and Dr. Robert Beiko to have a deeper understanding of both the algorithmic problems and biological significance of the project.

PET KONEKT

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING INTERN

June 2016 – August 2016 | Halifax, NS

- Worked on the technology team writing server-side code in PHP as part of the Launchpad Dal accelerator.

CONFERENCE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

USING INNOVATION TO SUPPORT REFUGEES

UNIVERSITY INNOVATION FELLOWS ANNUAL MEET-UP

Nov 2017 | Stanford University d.school, CA, USA

As part of the FAB team of the UIF program, we are hosting a 3 day meet-up at Stanford University to welcome 300 new fellows and celebrate reaching over 1000 total fellows this year. Speaking about how my project was impactful in helping refugees adapt to their new homes in Canada through teaching them computer science through an introduction to programming. I was chosen as one of 30 fellows to be on the FAB organizing team.

LEADERS ARE ALSO INNOVATORS

DALLEAD, DALHOUSIE'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Feb 2017 | Dalhousie University, Halifax

Students, undergraduate and graduate, have the ability of being innovators and causing positive change in the world. Leaders need to keep innovation in mind as it helps us think differently about solving problems in ways we never thought were possible.

PREDICT THE FUTURE BY INVENTING IT: ACCELERATING THE PACE OF CHANGE IN ACADEMIA

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Jan 2017 | San Francisco, CA, USA

Was invited to be one of the opening ceremony speakers in front of 1000+ attendees. Spoke about properly navigating the ecosystem to get sufficient backing for supporting refugees. In a time of unstable politics globally and especially in the United States, I explained the importance of empathy towards the minorities in need.

INNOVATING AS A STUDENT

DALHOUSIE COMPUTER SCIENCE INHOUSE CONFERENCE

Sept 2016 | Dalhousie University

Computer science students are usually very focused on their courses and they do not put in the time to discover opportunities around them to solve major problems with software. By providing an environment where students are able to share ideas, we can provide them with spaces that foster innovation and creativity.

SOCIETIES

2015-2017	President	Syrian Student Society of Dalhousie
2014-2017	Member	Dalhousie Computer Science Society
2016-2017	Co-president	Dalhousie Entrepreneurship Society
2017	Committee Member	Dalhousie Computer Science InHouse Conference
2016-2017	Member	Enactus Dalhousie, SyriaCan Network Team
2015-2016	Member	World University Service of Canada Society
2014-2015	Member	Golden Key International Honour Society

STARTUPS

While success is an important indicator of a person's potential, our failures are sometimes better learning experiences.

ESPIAL VISION

Oct 2016 – May 2017 | Halifax, NS

- Espial vision was on a mission to help the visually impaired see the world through specialized glasses.
- The glasses would have bone-conductive headphones, a camera, and Bluetooth connectivity to use the phone's processing power to convert visuals into sound.
- We stopped working on the startup because the market was not large enough locally, and there were many other similar projects that have not seen any wide adoption to date.

FOODFINDER

Jan 2016 – July 2016 | Halifax, NS

- FoodFinder was a platform that would allow consumers be more aware of the food products they purchase by providing crowd-sourced reviews for general grocery products.
- The problem we ran into was the scale of the grocery industry and the rapid change in products. This led us to quitting pursuing this startup.
- Second place winner in Startup Weekend Truro.

PROJECTS

SYRIAN STUDENT SOCIETY OF DALHOUSIE

Maritime Labs

June 2016 – present | Halifax, NS

- Created curriculum to teach computer science to refugees and graduated over 30 students in the first cohort.
- The students came from different backgrounds and learned the basics of computer science through Java and web design.

Shokran Canada

Dec 2015 – present | Halifax, NS

- Event is held to showcase the real Syrian culture through food, music, and dance.
- Leading a team of 50 volunteers, our first event was held in March 2017 with a budget of \$15,000.
- Working on a bigger event in 2018 to cater for more than 500 attendees.

Clothes For Refugees

Sept 2016 – Dec 2016 | Halifax, NS

- Led a team of 30 which filled a 20 foot container with clothes for refugees and sent it to Jordan to be distributed to people in need.

SOMALI RELIEF NETWORK OF NORTH AMERICA

Share a Plate, Annual Fundraising Dinner

June 2017 | Halifax, NS

- Fundraised over \$100,000 for Somali Relief effort to support people in need because of the drought.
- Taught students design thinking, lean business model canvas to introduce them to innovation and entrepreneurship by solving real-world problems.

DALHOUSIE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SOCIETY

Tuesday Takeoffs

Sept 2016 – Dec 2016 | Halifax, NS

- Held weekly sessions inspired by Frederic Pferdt, Chief Innovation Officer of Google, to get students involved in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Taught students design thinking, lean business model canvas to introduce them to innovation and entrepreneurship by solving real-world problems.

AWARDS

Nov 2017 Dalhousie University Faculty of Computer Science Leadership Award

Mar 2017 Dalhousie University Faculty Leadership Impact Award

Nov 2016 Faculty of Computer Science Citizenship Award

Nov 2016 Faculty of Computer Science Top Teaching Assistant Award

VOLUNTEER

2017	Volunteer	Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining 2017 Conference
2017	Keynote Speaker	Faculty of Computer Science Schulich Family Reception
2017	Guest Speaker	Dalhousie University President's Scholarship Reception
2014-2017	Projects Director	Ummah Masjid & Community Centre, Youth Programs
2016-2017	Student Ambassador	Computer Science Faculty
2015	Organizer	Canadian Business Model Competition Organizer
2016	Student Ambassador	Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation
2015-2016	Class Instructor	Frontier College

ACTIVITIES

2017	UCOSP Coding Sprint, Toronto
2017	Bluenose 5k marathon, Halifax
2016	Startup Sprint, Next36, Toronto
2016	Volta Hackathon, Halifax

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING

Expert:

C++/C

Proficient:

Java • Python • HTML • CSS • PHP • Prolog

Familiar:

Javascript

Tools:

CommandLine • CMake • Git
Vim/Emacs • Android • MySQL

SPOKEN & WRITTEN

Native fluency:

English, Arabic

SOFT SKILLS

Native fluency:

Leadership
Communication

PASSIONS

Algorithms research
Startups
Humanitarian aid
Programming languages & compilers