

Ikram Ul Haq

Engineering Lead — AI

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Profile

AI Lead with over 4 years of expertise in Machine Learning and Software Engineering. Currently leading projects utilizing advanced NLP techniques, microservices architectures, and cloud-native platforms at Nokia. Skilled in leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) for complex use cases like Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and Agentic workflows. Passionate about scalable and efficient system development using Kubernetes, Docker, MLFlow, and OpenTelemetry.

Areas of Expertise

Machine Learning - NLP - Large Language Models - Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) - AI Agents - Kubernetes - Microservices - Cloud-Native Applications - Docker - MLFlow - OpenTelemetry - Vector Databases - Data Analysis

Professional Experience

AI Lead

[Nokia](#)

Espoo, Finland

05/2023 – Present

- Leading the end-to-end development of a modular GenAI platform at Nokia, integrating components for Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), agentic workflows, and distributed LLM training, deployed on private, on-prem Kubernetes clusters.
- Managing a team of engineers, mentoring junior members, defining sprint goals, and aligning development milestones with Nokia's internal AI strategy.
- Architected and deployed scalable microservices with observability-first design using Docker, Kubernetes, MLFlow, OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, Jaeger, and Fluentd.
- Spearheaded the benchmarking and evaluation of open-source LLMs (LLaMA 3, Gemma, Mistral) across tasks like summarization, code generation, and chat. This research also contributed to a thesis on real-world applicability of LLMs for industrial use.
- Developed robust support for distributed training of LLMs across GPU nodes using Kubernetes-native scheduling, enabling large-scale experimentation and fine-tuning.

Research Assistant

[Åbo Akademi University](#)

Turku, Finland

08/2022 – 07/2023

- Curated and published [AIS dataset](#) contributing significantly to maritime research in Finland.

Machine Learning Engineer

[Arbisoft](#)

Lahore, Pakistan

08/2020 – 08/2022

- Developed NLP-based tagging pipelines to classify and filter user reviews on travel platforms like KAYAK, enhancing SEO and content discoverability.
- Implemented hotel-specific tag extraction (e.g., cleanliness, service) to support personalized search and smarter review navigation.
- Evaluated open-source machine translation models to support multilingual review translation, improving accessibility for international users.
- Communicated progress and insights to clients, and delivered functional NLP prototypes that shaped project scope and earned trust.

Education

Master's in Intelligent Systems

[University of the Balearic Islands](#)

Palma, Spain

2023 – 2024

Thesis: Performance Analysis of Large Language Models (LLMs) on Summarization, Code Generation and Conversational AI

Master's in Engineering of Data-intensive Intelligent Software Systems (EDISS)

[Åbo Akademi University](#)

Turku, Finland

2022 – 2024

Relevant Courses: Data Science, Computer Vision, Cloud-Native Applications, Big Data Management.

BS Computer Science

[University of the Punjab](#)

Lahore, Pakistan

2016 – 2020

Relevant Courses: Programming, Algorithms, Data Structures, System Programming, Software Engineering.

Certifications

- [Deep Learning Specialization by DeepLearning.ai](#)
- [TensorFlow Developer Professional Certificate by DeepLearning.ai](#)
- [IBM Advanced Data Science Specialization](#)
- [Linear Algebra for Machine Learning and Data Science by DeepLearning.ai](#)
- [Big Data Modeling and Management Systems](#)
- [Applied Machine Learning in Python](#)
- [AWS Fundamentals – Going Cloud-Native](#)
- [AWS Fundamentals – Building Serverless Applications](#)
- [SQL for Data Science](#)

Achievements

- Awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for academic excellence.
- Championed a data science hackathon and won over six university-level programming competitions.
- Consistently listed on the Vice Chancellor's and Principal's honors lists for top academic performance.
- [Applied AI with Deep Learning badge by IBM](#)
- [Advanced Data Science Capstone badge by IBM](#)
- [Advanced Data Science Specialist badge by IBM](#)
- **Winner** – Speed Programming Competition, NasCon'29 (FAST-NU Islamabad)
- **Winner** – Speed Programming, NAMAL TechnoFest'19
- **Winner** – Speed Programming, Layalpur Festival 2018 (UAF)
- **Winner** – Junior Speed Programming, PUCIT 2018
- **Winner** – Line Following Zumo Robot Competition, NAMAL TechnoFest'19
- **Runner-up** – 100 Minutes of Code, IEEE Week 2019 (FAST-NU Lahore)
- **Bronze Medal** – ACM-ICPC Asia Regional Programming Competition

Skills

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C++, Rust, Java, Kotlin
- **ML Frameworks:** HuggingFace, vLLM, LangChain, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-learn
- **Tools:** Kubernetes, Docker, MLFlow, OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, Argo, Jenkins, SonarQube
- **Soft Skills:** Leadership, Problem-solving, Communication, Teamwork

Languages

- **English** [Professional]
- **Punjabi/Urdu** [Native]