

Yana Veitsman

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Education

Universität des Saarlandes

Oct 2023 — Sep 2025

MSc Language Science and Technology, CGPA: 1.6/1.0 (German scale)

Saarbrücken, Germany

- Master Thesis: *Why Cross-Lingual Alignment Fails for Better Cross-Lingual Transfer?*
- Organizer of LangLunches — informal inter-department research talks
- Student Council President

American University in Bulgaria

Jan 2019 — Dec 2022

BA Computer Science (Summa Cum Laude), CGPA: 3.93/4.0

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

- Bachelor Thesis: *NLP-based Social Media Post Generator*
- Major: Computer Science
- Minors: Mathematics, Modern Languages and Cultures (Spanish language focus)

Universitat de València

Feb 2021 — Jun 2021

Erasmus+ exchange, Department of Computer Engineering

València, Spain

- 1st class grade in the course Data Mining and Machine Learning (out of 30 students)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Universität des Saarlandes

Feb 2024 — now

Supervisors: Prof. Michael Hahn, Prof. Vera Demberg

Saarbrücken, Germany

- Currently co-leading a project on exploring persistent theoretical limitations in pre-trained LLMs
- Co-authored a paper on the mechanisms behind in-context learning in Gemma model family
- Co-authored a paper on expressivity of state space models (SSMs) using formal languages framework

Research Assistant, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)

Feb 2024 — Oct 2024

Supervisors: Dr. Simon Ostermann, Dr. Cennet Oguz

Saarbrücken, Germany

- Streamlined annotation, validation, and pre-processing of data for multimodal anaphora resolution

Industry Experience

Software Developer

Dec 2021 — Dec 2022

VMware Bulgaria

Sofia, Bulgaria

- Integrated an LLM-based search system with a documentation portal using RabbitMQ, Python, and .NET
- Developed a graphic design requests portal in .NET and Angular, used by 90+ technical writers

Junior Backend Developer

Jun 2021 — Dec 2021

Social Paragraph, schip.gent startup

Brussels, Belgium

- Developed a Python app for generating tweets from web-scraped content under tight computational limits

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

Professional Development Grant

Dec 2024

American Councils for International Education

- Awarded a grant for conference travel among 8000 FLEX program alumni

Best Group Project Award, 3rd place (out of 14)

Jul 2024

Universität des Saarlandes, Data Science course

- Led the project titled *Predicting Processing Times in Resource-Constrained Manufacturing Settings with Transformer-Based and Regression Analysis Models*

Outstanding Achievement in Computer Science

Apr 2023

American University in Bulgaria

- Awarded in the Foundations of Computing concentration among the graduating class of 200 students

Outstanding Achievement in Modern Languages and Cultures

Apr 2023

American University in Bulgaria

- Awarded in Spanish language studies among the graduating class of 200 students

Conferences and Schools

The 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics	Jan 2025
The 1st Workshop on Language Models for Low-Resource Languages	Abu Dhabi, UAE
Poster Presenter, Session Chair	
The 38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems	Dec 2024
Poster Presenter	Vancouver, Canada
The 2nd Athens Natural Language Processing Summer School	Sep 2024
Participant	Athens, Greece
The 33rd Computational Linguistics Student Conference	May 2024
Speaker	Saarbrücken, Germany

Talks and Workshops

LLM Prompting Strategies for Everyone	May 2025
IT-Hub Terricon Valley	Karaganda, Kazakhstan
Hands-On AI for Students	Mar 2025
FLEX Alumni Community Grant Project	Remote
Transformers or RNNs or SSMs: Who's More Sensitive?	May 2024
TaCoS, The 33rd Computational Linguistics Student Conference	Saarbrücken, Germany
Introduction to Natural Language Processing	May 2023
IT-Hub Terricon Valley	Karaganda, Kazakhstan
Comparing Modeling of Russian and English Languages from the Point of View of NLP Potential	Apr 2022
The 17th Fellowship of the Mind Student Conference	Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

Teaching and Mentorship

ABLE Mentor Program Mentor	Sep 2022 — Dec 2022
American University in Bulgaria	
◦ Advised a 10-th grade local high school student in writing and publishing a book on car tuning	
C++ Subject Tutor	Sep 2020 — Dec 2020
American University in Bulgaria	
◦ Conducted tutoring sessions for 20+ students, helping them grasp the concepts of OOP in C++	

Skills

Spoken Languages: Russian (Native), English (C2), Spanish (C1), German, Bulgarian, Kazakh (A2)
Programming Languages: Python, C# (.NET), C++, SQL
Machine and Deep Learning: numpy, pandas, PyTorch, HuggingFace transformers, TransformerLens
Tools: Git, Bash, Linux, Docker, AWS/Azure, Weights & Biases, Hydra

Coursework Highlights

Linguistics: Computational Linguistics, Speech Science, Semantic Theory
Mathematics: Real Analysis, Automata, Formal Languages and Applications, Statistics with R
Machine and Deep Learning: Data Mining and Machine Learning, Elements of Machine Learning, Neural Networks: Implementation and Application
Research Seminars: Aligning Language Models with Human Preferences: Methods and Challenges, NLP for Low-Resource Languages, Robust and Efficient NLP