

# Yash Gawankar

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## Education

### University of Southern California

Master of Science in Computer Science - Artificial Intelligence (CS-AI)

GPA: 4.0

Los Angeles, California

May - 2026

### PES University

Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) with a Specialization in Machine Intelligence and Data Science (MIDS), and GPA - 9.71/10

Bengaluru, India

September - 2022

## Skills

- ML/AI: **Recommender Systems**, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, **LLMs and Generative AI**, Machine Learning, Agentic AI, Computer Vision, **Multimodal Learning and Fusion**, Diffusion models
- Frameworks: Pytorch, LangChain, Pandas, Scikitlearn, OpenCV, NLTK, PydanticAI, Git
- Technical & Functional: Python, Django, SQL, MongoDB, FastAPI, Product Management, Agile

## Experience

### Software Development Engineer, Backend (ML/AI)

Affinsys AI

Bengaluru, India

June 2022 - July 2024

- Led development of an **AI-powered Campaign Manager** for cognitive banking, integrating LLMs to automate content creation and campaign dispatch, reducing manual effort by 25%
- Designed AmigoX **GenAI Analytics**, enabling natural language data visualization, cutting analysis time by 30%, and boosting revenue by 10%
- Conceptualized AmigoX Picsum, a GenAI tool converting design concepts into dynamic HTML templates for seamless integration into existing flows and customer journeys
- Developed a custom evaluation metric and optimized prompts for LLMs and RAG pipelines, improving chatbot accuracy across GPT, LLaMA, and Mistral

### Software Developer Intern (ML/AI)

Affinsys AI

Bengaluru, India

June 2021 - June 2022

- Spearheaded research and development of the **Cognitive Recommendation Engine**, which was later integrated into the Campaign Manager System boosting cross-sell, upsell by 12% and reducing churn by 4.5%
- Implemented a RoBERTa based spelling correction model for spell check and correction
- Created lifelike 3D renderings from 2D images using Deep Learning based 3D facial reconstruction models for Metaverse Banking Solutions

## University Projects

### • ReMoDiff - Restoring Missing Modalities with Diffusion

Developing a **diffusion-based framework** to reconstruct missing modalities (audio, video, text) for personality trait inference, integrating **multimodal fusion** strategies

Jan 2025 - May 2025

### • Overcoming Catastrophic Forgetting in Recommender Systems

Applied continual learning (EWC, ER) in SASRec-based **sequential recommenders**, improving recall by 20% through adaptive distillation and exemplar replay

Sept 2024 - Dec 2024

### • RLHF-based Optimization of Recommendations using LLMs

Engineered an **RLHF-based recommender** with **DPO and LoRA-tuned LLMs**, boosting NDCG@K, Precision@K, and Recall@K by 170%-200% over baseline LLMs

Sept 2024 - Dec 2024

### • Generation of Talking Head Videos using TransGANs (Capstone Project)

Implemented talking head video synthesis using ViTs, GANs, and autoencoders; co-authored a survey paper accepted at ICICT 2022, London

Jan 2021 - Dec 2021

## Additional

**Awards:** Scholarships - Received CNR Rao and MRD scholarships for maintaining a top 2% standing over eight semesters; Innovation - Runner-up in the Teenovators National Innovation Challenge for prototyping the 'Rectenna' to harvest residual energy from carrier waves for mobile charging

**Volunteer Experience:** Rotary Bangalore North - Served as the President of Interact Club and Kinderact Club, affiliated with the Rotary Club of Bangalore North, participating in impactful social service projects

**Interests:** Soccer (semi-pro) - Led the soccer and futsal teams at club and college, in zonal-level leagues