

DARIA ZAHALEANU

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Data-focused Computer Engineer with a proven track record of transforming data collection prototypes into production-ready platforms. Skilled in leading cross-functional teams and managing data-driven projects from schema definition to scalable, automated pipelines. Passionate about leveraging AI and technical excellence for the greater good.

WORK EXPERIENCE

NETCOMPANY *Fastest growing IT service company in Northern Europe providing modern IT solutions* Copenhagen, Denmark
IT Consultant Feb 2023 – present

- Designed and deployed scalable web platform features utilizing Java and Typescript to enhance experience for 3M+ users
- Contributed to the architecture and design of scalable systems, applying design patterns and ensuring reliability to support high-traffic applications, achieving a 35% speed improvement and reducing data processing time by 30%
- Led a team of 10 engineers to successfully implement a 6-month digital transformation project to modernize a legacy system, surpassing budget goals by \$50k, while applying SE best practices across the full development lifecycle

MICROSOFT Copenhagen, Denmark
Program Management Intern Apr 2022 – Jan 2023

- Developed a strategy to automate data flows and streamline reporting using Microsoft Dynamics 365 Customer Insights and Power BI to analyze customer data, which resulted in a boost in user satisfaction by 20%
- Optimized user engagement tracking by configuring Dynamics 365 dashboards and reports, enabling four cross-functional teams to drive a 30% increase in platform traffic
- Led AI adoption workshops for senior executives, integrating Power Automate and AI-driven analytics into sales processes

AQFEED *Start-up that produces sustainable fish feed ingredients by recycling aquaculture waste* Copenhagen, Denmark
Co-founder and Chief Information Officer Dec 2020 – Mar 2022

- Co-founded the first sustainable fish-feed start-up in Denmark and secured \$22k in soft-funding in less than a year
- Developed an IT growth initiative leveraging IoT-enabled smart sensors, using Python for real-time data processing and Java to build scalable backend systems for automated monitoring enhancing automation by 25%
- Pioneered strategic partnerships with 3 leading aquaculture organizations and research institutions in Denmark

BROOKLYN INVESTMENT GROUP *AI technologies to provide forecasts of risks affecting markets* New York City, NY, USA
Machine Learning Engineer Intern May – Jul 2019

- Implemented advanced machine learning algorithms, resulting in a 20% increase in predictive accuracy for real-time public policy forecasts, improving decision-making for market risks
- Reduced language model errors by 15% on billing text data by deploying +5 machine learning algorithms via cloud services

RESEARCH AND TEACHING

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK Copenhagen, Denmark
Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Machine Learning and Data Mining Sept 2022 – Jan 2023

- Held weekly exercise sessions to explain material and answer questions from 100+ master's students
- Collaborated with the course instructor to ensure alignment with learning objectives and assignments
- Provided detailed feedback on assignments, highlighting areas for improvement and fostering critical thinking

IT UNIVERSITY COPENHAGEN Copenhagen, Denmark
Research Assistant Feb 2022 – Jul 2022

- Analyzed the relationship between smartphone penetration and income data from a dataset of 11,000 users in the US
- Proved biases in data collection from low-income users using statistical analysis, revealing significant under-representation
- Quantified mobile ownership disparities by operating system, showcasing a distinct bias favoring Android users

NYU TANDON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING New York City, NY, USA
Software Development Research Intern Jun – Aug 2019

- Created an automated machine learning model that gathered more than 1000 benign recordings from sandbox system
- Compiled findings from recording and replaying malware traces into a report aimed at improving security testing practices

NYU Abu Dhabi CYBERSECURITY Department Abu Dhabi, UAE
Research Assistant May – Jul 2018

- Discovered 15 key vulnerabilities in self-driving car simulators by applying deep learning adversarial attacks
- Enhanced defense mechanisms against image tampering in 3 self-driving car simulators by enhancing security protocols

EDUCATION

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK (DTU)

Copenhagen, Denmark

M.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering, Specialization in AI and Algorithms, GPA: 11.08/12 Sep 2020 – July 2022

- Honors Program (top 10% of class of 2,500), GRE: Quantitative 165 (90th percentile) and 161 Verbal (85th percentile)
- Master's thesis: "Biases in human mobility data in the United States" (Advisor: Prof. Sune Lehmann)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Abu Dhabi, UAE

B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, GPA: 3.54/4.0, Major GPA: 3.71/4.0

Aug 2016 – May 2020

- Awarded NYU Abu Dhabi Full-ride Scholarship, NYU Abu Dhabi Summer Internship Award 2018 and 2019
- Study abroad: NYU Tandon School of Engineering (New York City, Spring 2019); NYU Madrid (Madrid, January 2018)

PUBLIC SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

NOVA TOP TALENT NETWORK

Copenhagen, Denmark

City Co-leader

Feb 2021 – present

- Developed and led workshops and keynote sessions, fostering industry insights and collaboration among network members
- Organized monthly events to facilitate networking opportunities and advance careers for top-tier professionals

MUBADALA CURIOSITY PROGRAM

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Volunteer Engineering Leader

Mar 2018 – Apr 2018

- Led a 2-month program in Abu Dhabi, teaching foundational engineering concepts to 30 middle-school students
- Designed and delivered lessons and hands-on projects, resulting improved understanding of engineering principles

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Karwar, India

Volunteer Engineering Leader

Mar 2017 – Apr 2017

- Led team that built a house, a temporary electricity grid, and water supply for a family in rural India

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION 'SPERANTA'

Targu Neamt, Romania

Volunteer

June 2016 – present

- Facilitated 40+ summer workshops that equipped 200 entrepreneurs with skills in digital marketing and e-commerce
- Implemented a digital literacy program for over to teaching basic programming to students and local entrepreneurs
- Customized and adapted training materials annually to meet evolving digital trends and local needs

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- **AI & ML:** MLflow, TensorFlow, NLP, forecasting models, model evaluation, mechanistic interpretability frameworks
- **Cloud & DevOps:** Microsoft Azure (Azure Certified), AWS, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes
- **Programming:** Proficient in C++, Java, Python, JavaScript, Typescript, SQL
- **Tools:** Git, Jenkins, Azure DevOps, CI/CD, Power BI
- **Languages:** English (Native/Bilingual), French (Advanced), Danish (Beginner), Romanian (Native)
- **Interests:** Running (competed in +10 5K and 10K races), strength training (3–5 times/week), writing blogs and articles