

# MAJD ALKAWAAS

Kerr Hall, AUB Bliss Street, Hamra, Beirut, Lebanon

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## EDUCATION

**American University of Beirut**, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Beirut, Lebanon Bachelor of Science in computer science. August 2019 - May 2023.

**Virginia Commonwealth University**, College of Engineering, Richmond, VA, USA Semester Abroad in Computer Science, August 2022 – December 2022

**Damascus University**, Faculty of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Damascus, Syria Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering, Unfinished degree (Transferred to AUB).

## SKILLS

- **Languages:** Native speaker of Arabic, fluent in English (speaking, reading, writing)
- **Technical skills:** Web Development (Django, Laravel, MySQL, jQuery) Machine Learning (NLP, Computer Vision, TensorFlow, Keras)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Virginia Commonwealth University NanoNLP Lab**, Richmond, VA, US

*Research assistant and project Co-lead*, Sept 2022 – Present

- Developed information extraction models for chemicals from research papers and predicting their role in an interaction.
- Investigating few-shot learning and meta-learning techniques to overcome the lack of data in our projects.

**American University of Beirut**, Beirut, Lebanon

*Machine Learning Research Intern*, Jul 2021 – May 2022

- Conducted extensive literature review regarding Machine Learning applications in HVAC systems for large facilities (i.e., AUB campus).
- Built data gathering software; to collect data about the building's occupants' thermal comforts.
- Worked on preprocessing the gathered data.
- Experimented with a variety of ML models and Neural Networks architectures.

**Sejaal Inc**, Beirut, Lebanon

*Front-End web development Intern*, July 2018 – Nov 2018

- Transformed the UI design from Mock-ups to responsive web pages using Bootstrap, and jQuery.
- Built Right to left alignment web pages.

**Freelance**, Damascus, Syria

*Web Developer*, November 2015 – April 2017

- Designed, developed, and delivered marketing websites for multiple small businesses in Syria using WordPress, Pure PHP, Laravel, and Bootstrap.
- Was the youngest team member as a high school student.

## EXTRACURRICULAR AND VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES:

**Richmond tool bank**, Richmond, VA, US

*Volunteer and woodworker*, Sept 2022 – December 2022

- Managed Inventory
- Built wooden park benches for kids' parks.

**AUB Robotics Club**, Beirut, Lebanon

*Cabinet member*, October 2021 – Present

- Participated in designing robotics competitions in AUB such as Build it Weekend and Engineering Design Challenge.
- Created teaching material for beginner and intermediate Arduino Workshops.
- Created educational content for our newsletter.

### **Outlook Newspaper at AUB, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Staff writer, September 2021 – Present*

- Writes about AI Ethics, Data bias, and Data centered machine learning.

### **Techfugees, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Coach, coordinator, and staff member, January 2021 – Present*

- Co-organized and co-coordinated a digital skills program that included more than 60 participants in three cities.
- Coached in Techfugees data labeling and freelancing training for aspiring freelancers in collaboration with Humans in the Loop
- Contributed to the Techfugees Data hub where we collect data reports regarding the Covid-19 state in multiple countries and refugee sites.
- Assisted in the renovation and software development of the data hub.

### **Office of International program at AUB, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Mentor, June 2021 – May 2022*

- Provided mentorship for international students on multiple matters to help them to relocate.
- Organized activities for incoming international students to get more familiar with the campus and the surrounding area.

### **Paper Airplanes, Beirut, Lebanon**

*English as a second language Tutor, August 2021 – January 2022*

- Taught one on one sessions and conducted examinations for my student.

### **SMEX.org, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Facilitator and Room Master, November 2019*

- Member of the volunteering organizational team of Bread & Net 2019.
- Managed the panels' schedule making sure every panel is going smoothly and protecting the panelists' privacy.

### **RBCs at Damascus University, Damascus, Syria**

*TEAM LEADER, COACH, CONTENT CREATOR, AND TUTOR, September 2018 – January 2020*

- Led the team responsible for the electronic circuits course content documentation which consisted of seven content creators.
- Co-created ScreenIT a project that aims to demonstrate to high school students the prospects of Computer science and computer engineering majors.
- C-created the ScreenIT content coached the speakers on the content and coached the high school students on the demonstrated projects.
- Conducted tutoring sessions for multiple courses including logical circuits, OOP programming, and electronic circuits.

### **Robotic Club at Damascus University, Damascus, Syria**

*Coach, September 2018 – August 2018*

- Co-coached Basics of microcontrollers using Arduino workshop.
- Co-coached Basics of Robotics using LEGO EV3 workshop.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

*TEDxYouth Speaker, May 2016*

- Delivered a TED talk in which I shared my story as a Self-taught programmer teenager in Damascus, Syria, and the obstacles I faced throughout my journey.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Three times First Place, Computer Science Pioneer in Syria. 2009, 2010, and 2011.
- Silver Medal, Al-Basel Fair for Invention and Creativity, Damascus, Syria 2011.
- First Place, Startup Weekend Youth of Damascus, Damascus, Syria 2016
- Second Place, Change Makers Hackathon, Damascus, Syria 2017
- Second Place, Wikilogia Hackathon, The Race of Tech Projects, Aleppo, Syria 2018
- Finalist, SCPC Syrian Collegiate Programming Contest 2019, Damascus, Syria 2019
- Tomorrow's Leader Scholarship, U.S. Department of State, USA, June 2019