

Software Engineer | University Instructor



+96178823885



sara.skandar@gmail.com



Beirut, Lebanon

SUMMARY

Software Engineer with hands-on experience across NLP, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), explainable AI, and production software engineering. Skilled at taking machine learning systems from research to deployment, with a strong foundation in backend engineering and system design.

EDUCATION

Saint-Joseph University of Beirut

Master's Degree in Artificial Intelligence
2021 – 2023

The program is based on the development and research in the fields of AI, ML, and Data Science. It covers the usage of AI in various domains, such as cybersecurity, NLP, Computer Vision and so on.

It includes theoretical and practical courses and extensive hands-on experience.

Lebanese University

Master's Degree in GIS and Data Science
2017 – 2019

Lebanese University

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science
2014 – 2017

SKILLS

Machine Learning, NLP, RAG,
Hybrid Search (BM25 + Dense),
Vector DBs, LLM Integration,
Explainable AI, Python, Java,
SQL, FastAPI, Docker, Git

LANGUAGES

Arabic (Native)
English (Fluent)
French (Fluent)
Portuguese (Advanced)
Turkish (Intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Artificial Intelligence Engineer

MindField Digital | 2023 – 2024

- Led NLP projects focused on sentiment analysis and review prediction for restaurant chains.
- Built and deployed models to analyze customer sentiment from social media and online reviews.

University Instructor

AL MAAREF UNIVERSITY | 2021 – PRESENT

- TEACHING: OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING (JAVA) / C++ / DATABASES / WEB DEVELOPMENT / DATA STRUCTURES

Software Engineer

3iSoft | 2021 – 2025

- Spearheaded the development of cutting-edge Java EE applications tailored for the hospitality management industry.
- Led both backend and frontend development efforts, ensuring a seamless user experience and robust system architecture.

PROJECTS

Arabic RAG Agent - Knowledge Assistant

Built a production-grade Retrieval-Augmented Generation system for Arabic, combining dense vector search (ChromaDB) with BM25 keyword search via Reciprocal Rank Fusion. Includes Arabic-specific NLP preprocessing and citation-grounded answers using Google Gemini, shipped as a Dockerized FastAPI service.

Explainable Artificial Intelligence-based Framework for Emotion Recognition Using Body Motion Data

Master's Thesis in Artificial Intelligence – 2023

Designed and built an explainable AI system for emotion recognition from body-movement data, including the full data pipeline for feature extraction and classification. Applied XAI-based attribution methods to analyze how motion features contributed to emotional-state predictions.