

Curriculum Vitae

Mo El-Haj

➤ General Information

Name: Mahmoud El Haj

Known as: Mo El-Haj (preferred)

Nationality: British (United Kingdom)

➤ General Information

Webpage: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/staff/elhaj>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=diBeuuEAAAAJ&hl=en>

GitHub: <https://github.com/drelhaj>

LinkedIn: <http://uk.linkedin.com/in/melhaj>

Work experience

- 02/2025 – Current: Reader (Associate Professor) in Data Science, VinUniversity, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 03/2025 – Current: Director of the VinNLP Research Group at VinUniversity, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 06/2023 – 02/2025: Director of Admissions for School of Computing, Lancaster University
- 11/2022 – 02/2025: Computer Science Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), Lancaster University
- 06/2022 – 02/2025: Co-Director of the UCREL Research Centre and NLP Group, Lancaster University
- 09/2019 – 11/2022: Computer Science Lecturer, Lancaster University
- 01/2014 – 09/2019: Senior Research associate, Lancaster University
- 12/2012 – 01/2014: Research associate, Lancaster University
- 07/2010 – 11/2012: Data mining developer, UK Data Archive, University of Essex

Academic and teaching qualification:

- August 2012: PhD in Computer Science, University of Essex
- Higher Education: [Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy \(FHEA\)](#) - Advance HE, UK, 2021.
- UK Teaching Qualification: Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) – Essex University, 2010
- August 2008: MSc in Information Systems, University of Jordan
- June 2005: BSc in Computer Information Systems, University of Jordan

Awards

- Best Presentation Award at [LITHME Training School 2023](#), Pristina, Kosovo, 2023.
- Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) - [Advance HE](#), UK, 2021.
- Winning team for the best audience-facing tool - [BBC NewsHack event](#), London, 2016.
- Fully funded Internship at the [National Institute of Informatics](#), Tokyo, Japan, 2011.
- Best Paper Award at the [4th LTC Conference](#), Poznan, Poland, 2009.

PhD students:

- Dr Nadhem Zmandar. PhD Title: Multilingual Financial Summarization (Graduated)
 - Dr Chiamaka Chukwuneke. PhD Title: Named entity recognition for African Languages: a focus on Igbo (Graduated)
 - Jesse Phillips. PhD Title: The Automated Generation of Meaningful and Coherent Source Code Documentation Using Natural Language Processing Techniques (3rd year)
 - Damith Premasiri. PhD Title: Legal Natural Language Processing (2nd year).
 - Salim Almandhari. PhD Title: Arabic Text Simplification (1st year).
 - Ghada Alshahrani. PhD Title: Detection of Offensive Language (1st year)
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➤ Research

Research Activities:

- Workshops Chair for COLING 2025 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. <https://coling2025.org/>
- Organisers of the UCREL NLP Summer School 2024, Lancaster UK. <https://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/uss2024/>
- Organiser of the HealTAC 2024 Conference, Lancaster, UK. <https://healtac2024.github.io/>

- Organiser of the NLPaICS'2024 Conference, Lancaster, UK. <https://nlpaics.com/>
- General Chair of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Financial Narrative Processing Workshops. 1st: LREC'18 (Japan), 2nd: NoDaLiDa'19 (Finland), 3rd: DSI'21 (UK), 4th: LREC 2022 (France) and IEEE BigData 2023 (Sorrento, Italy). <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/cfie/>
- Programme Committee for [ACL](#), [LREC](#) and [EMNLP](#) Conferences 2022 (all are [top NLP conferences](#))
- Area Chair for COLING and EMNLP 2023 and 2024 Conferences.
- General Chair of the 1st Joint FNS-FNP Workshop at COLING 12 December 2020, Spain ([top NLP conference](#)).
- Chair Organiser for [MultiLing 2019](#) workshop co-located with RANLP 2019, Varna, Bulgaria
- Chair Organiser of the 4th Workshop on Arabic NLP ([WANLP](#)) at EACL 2019, Florence, Italy ([top NLP conference](#)).
- Programme Committee for the [7th International Conference on Arabic Language Processing 2019](#). Nancy, France.
- Programme Committee for the [3rd Conference on Natural Language and Speech Processing 2019](#). Torino, Italy.
- Programme Committee for the [Corpus Linguistics 2019](#). Cardiff, UK.
- Programme Committee the 57th [ACL](#) conference 2019 ([top NLP conference](#)).
- Reviewer for the Language Resources and Evaluation ([LREV](#)) Journal 2019 ([top NLP journal](#)).
- Reviewer for the Computational Linguistics ([CL](#)) journal 2019 ([top NLP journal](#)).
- Reviewer for the Natural Language Engineering ([NLE](#)) Journal 2019 ([top NLP journal](#)).

External funding (Secured)

- 1- **Title:** Celtic Languages Large Language Models (Celtic LLM). **Start date:** March 2024. **End date:** March 2025. **Funder:** FST Research Catalyst Fund, Lancaster, UK. **Amount:** £10 (US-\$13k). **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI).
- 2- **Title:** Leveraging NLP for Sustainable Finance: A Vision 2030 Initiative. **Start date:** September 2024. **End date:** September 2025. **Funder:** Research Development and Innovation Authority, Saudi Arabia. **Amount:** £40 (US-\$50k). **Role:** Visiting Researcher, Consultant.
- 3- **Title:** A Small Welsh Language Model Pilot for Sentiment Analysis Testing. **Start date:** July 2024. **End date:** July 2025. **Funder:** Welsh Government. **Amount:** £8,150k (US-\$10,387k)
- 4- **Title:** An Assessment of Corporate Disclosures from Accounting Standards 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers. **Start date:** April 2020. **End date:** July 2022. **Funder:** IAAER/KPMG. **Amount:** £22k (US-\$25k). **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI).
- 5- **Title:** Arabic USAS Semantic Tagger (AraSAS). **Start date:** 1 June 2020. **End date:** 1 August 2022. **Funder:** Research Incentive Fund grant from Zayed University, UAE. **Amount:** £6k (\$7k). **URL:** [AraSAS](#). **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)
- 6- **Title:** FinT-esp: Financial Texts in Spanish: Resources and Tools. **Start date:** 1 January 2018. **End date:** 1 June 2021. **Funder:** Agencia Española de Investigación (Spanish Agency for Research). **Amount:** £35k (Euros 40k). **URL:** [FinT-ESP](#). (in Es: <http://www.llf.uam.es/ESP/FinT-esp.html>) **Role:** Consultant
- 7- **Title:** Gymraeg: ADNODD CREU CRYNODEBAU (ACC). English: Welsh Summary Creator (WSC). **Start date:** 1 May 2021. **End date:** 1 May 2022. **Funder:** GOV.WALES. **Amount:** £90k. **URL:** [ADNODD CREU CRYNODEBAU \(ACC\)](#). **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)
- 8- **Title:** CLARA-Fin: Computational Linguistics Applications for Readability and simplification in Financial Narrative. **Start date:** 1 September 2021. **End date:** 1 August 2024. **Funder:** Agencia Española de Investigación (Spanish Agency for Research). **Amount*:** £37k (Euros 42k). **Role:** Consultant. **URL:** [CLARA-Fin](#).
- 9- **Title:** Canadian Annual Reports Extractor (CARE). **Start date:** 1 November 2022. **End date:** 1 November 2023. **Funder:** Mitacs, HEC Montreal, Waterloo University and CPA Canada. **Amount:** £30k. **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)
- 10- **Title:** Using Word Embeddings to Create a Thesaurus of Contemporary Welsh. **Start date:** 1 March 2022. **End date:** 1 March 2023. **Funder:** GOV.WALES. **Amount:** £90k. **URL:** [Thesawrws](#). **Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)
- 11- **Title:** FreeTxt: supporting bilingual free-text survey and questionnaire data analysis. **Start date:** 1 March 2022. **End date:** 1 March 2023. **Funder:** Arts and Humanities research council (AHRC). **Amount:** £100k. **URL:** [FreeTxt](#). **Role:** Co Investigator (CI)
- 12- **Title:** [SAMF Talent Track Application](#) on the use of NLP, machine learning and econometric techniques to leverage matched employer-employee longitudinal Danish register Data. **Start Date:** 1 Jan 2023. **End Date:** 1Jan 2025. **Funder:** SAMF, Denmark. **Amount:** £42.6k (DKK359,600). **Role:** Consultant. **URL:** [A copy of the application](#).

Total **successful** grants FEC: £500,760 (US-\$651,166) / Lancaster: £163,001 (US-\$207,986)

PhD external examiner for:

- Dr Fatimah Alqahtani (Computer Science - Kings College London, England, UK) [May 2023]
- Dr Taghreed Tarmom (Computer Science - Leeds University, England, UK) [February 2023]
- Dr Alaa Ali H Alharbi (Computer Science - Birmingham University, England, UK) [November 2022]
- Dr Chatrine Qwaider (Computational Linguistics - University of Gothenburg, Göteborg, Sweden) [January 2022]
- Dr Mohammed Hamed Altamimi (Computer Science - Bangor University, Wales, UK) [Feb 2020]
- Dr Maher Itani (Computer Science - Sheffield Hallam University, England, UK) [September 2019]

PhD internal examiner for:

- Dr Matthew Coole (Computer Science - Lancaster University, England, UK) [Mar 2023]
- Dr Lama Alsudias (Computer Science - Lancaster University, England, UK) [Mar 2022]
- Dr Edward Dearden (Computer Science - Lancaster University, England, UK) [Oct 2021]
- Dr Matthew Coole (Computer Science - Lancaster University, England, UK) [Sep 2020]