

Suwani Sathsara Gunasekara

☎ (+61) 042-824-8976

✉ gunasekara@student.unimelb.edu.au, suwani.gunasekara@gmail.com

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/suwani-gunasekara>

EDUCATION *Doctor of Philosophy - Engineering and IT* May 2023 – Present
University of Melbourne
Thesis: Impact of Rich Media on the Spread of Online Misinformation

Bachelor of Business Science (Hons) specialized in Business Analytics January 2018 – May 2022

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

- Overall GPA: 4.00/4.20
- First Class Honours (Based on the calculated GPA)
- **Dean's List** in all 8 semesters
- **Electives:** Machine Learning, Data Mining, Data Structures and Algorithms, Multivariate Methods in Business, Database Management, Financial Econometric, Stochastic Processes and Distributional Theory, Operations Research, Research Methods.

PUBLICATIONS **Gunasekara, Suwani**, Saumya Pareek, Ryan M. Kelly, and Jorge Goncalves. "The Influence of Content Modality on Perceptions of Online Misinformation." In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, pp. 1-10. 2025.

H.A.S.S. Gunasekara, R.M.H.D. Bandara, W.A.D.S. Peiris, W.M.H.C. Wijekoon. 2021: Deriving Insights through OCRed Job Advertisements via NLP. 3rd South Asian Conference on Interdisciplinary Research. 3(1), 56-63. Retrieved from <http://www.samr.tirdiconference.com/assets/images/portfolio/Conference-Proceeding-SAIR-21.pdf>

R.M.H.D. Bandara, **H.A.S.S. Gunasekara**, W.A.D.S. Peiris, W.M.H.C. Wijekoon. 2021: Information Extraction from Sri Lankan Job Advertisements via Rule-Based Approach. International Conference on Business Research. <http://dl.lib.uom.lk/handle/123/16859>

HONORS AND AWARDS **People Choice Award 2025 - Three Minute Thesis**
Organised by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
People Choice Award - Best Poster
Doctoral Colloquium - 2024
Organised by the Schools of Computing and Information Systems - University of Melbourne
Malik Jann Award.
This is awarded to the Coloursman with the highest 1st year GPA.

WORKING EXPERIENCE **Business Analyst** November 2021 – March 2023
London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), Malabe, Sri Lanka

- Researching and Integrating data science aspects to the product portfolio of LSEG technology.

Intern - Data Scientist July 2019 — December 2019
Acuity Knowledge Partners, Sri Lanka
Built a predictive model for stock market using news sentiments

- Scraped over 5000 news headlines from Sri Lankan newspapers using python libraries BeautifulSoup and Selenium.
- Using regular expressions and NLP text cleaning techniques the text data was cleaned.
- Text sentiment was quantified using python libraries Textblob, Vader and used the polarity score to predict the stock prices of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Head Tutor

Usability Evaluation Method (INFO20004)

July - Present

Tutor

Media Computation (COMP10003)

March - June 2025

User Interface Development (INFO20005)

March - June 2025

Optimisation and Decision Making (Melbourne Business School)

March - May 2024

OTHER SKILLS & INTERESTS

Language Skills

English (Full Professional Proficiency), Sinhala (Native or Bilingual Proficiency)

Interests

Machine Learning , Neural Networks , Econometric, Statistics, Data Analytics, Database Management, Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Genetic Algorithms

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Scripting Languages: Python, R, PySpark, MATLAB

Database Management Languages: SQL

Visualization Tools: Tableau, Power Bi

EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- University colours for the years 2018,2019.
- 1st Runners Up - National Sports Festival 2018 Western Province Chess team.
- Senior prefect at Visakha Vidyalaya.
- Member of the school chess team from 2003 to 2014.
 - School colours - 2004, 2011, 2013, 2014.
 - Western province colors - 2011,2013.
 - 2nd Runner Up - 2011 (U 19), 1st Runner Up - 2013 (U 19)- All Island National School Games (Chess).
 - Champions (U 19) - 2013 - All Island Inter School Chess Championship.
 - Vice Captain of the school senior chess team for the year 2013/2014.
- Orchestra - 1st place , Classical Singing - 1st place: All Island School Music Competitions 2014.

REFERENCES

A/Prof. Jorge Goncalves

Faculty of Engineering & IT,
University of Melbourne,
Parkville VIC 3052.

✉ jorge.goncalves@unimelb.edu.au