

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Name Riccardo Fiorista
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Education

- Sep 2023 – Present **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** *Cambridge (MA), United States*
Master of Science in Transportation
- Fulbright Austria Scholar
- Aug 2021 – Aug 2022 **University of Amsterdam (UvA)** *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
MSc Information Studies Data Science (track)
- Grade average: 8.75/10 – Cum Laude
- Master Thesis: *Equitable Public Transport Network Reduction: A Reinforcement Learning Approach* | Grade: 9/10 – High distinction
- To reduce public transport networks equitably, I devised a methodology to generate an equitable optimization heuristic for a novel DeepMaxQ-Learning maximum reward Reinforcement Learning (RL) algorithm. Publication in preparation.
- Sep 2016 – Jun 2020 **University of Edinburgh (UoE)** *Edinburgh, Scotland*
BSc in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science
- Grade average: 75.6/100 – First Class Honours
- Bachelor Thesis: *Modelling reactive components of biochemical systems with the Bond-Calculus* | Grade: 85/100 – High distinction
- Exchange: University of New South Wales (UNSW); Sydney, Australia | Jul 2018 – Dec 2018 | Grade average: 80.5/100 – Distinction
- Sep 2010 – Jun 2015 **Secondary Technical College (HTBLA) Eisenstadt** *Eisenstadt, Austria*
Matura in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Grade average: 1.0 (100/100) – High Distinction
- Exchange: Secondary Technical College Tampere; Tampere, Finland | Nov 2013

Work Experience

- Sep 2022 – Mar 2023 **Part-Time Software Architect** – TransLingo | *Düsseldorf, Germany*
- Supporting TransLingo, a research project at the university of Düsseldorf to bring high-frequency, remote language therapy to Aphasia patients. With this project, we want to reduce the time from stroke to therapy and cross the boundaries of human-based therapy to allow for fast and successful recovery.
- Apr 2022 – Jun 2022 **Research Assistant** – Amsterdam Data Science Group, UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- Leading a research project on text-based information retrieval such as named entity recognition and relation extraction. My contributions are groundwork for establishing a document search for requests under the freedom of information act.
- Feb 2022 – Oct 2023 **University Outreach** – Informatics Institute, UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- Responsible for the interaction with incoming students and coordination of the new cohort.

- Feb 2022 – Jun 2022 **Teaching Assistant** – Informatics Institute, UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- MSc Computer Science course: *Web Services and Cloud-Based Systems*
 - MSc Data Science course: *Big Data*
 - BSc Information Studies course: *Data Science*
 - Passing on my knowledge to both, the next and current generation of master students while having a lot of fun doing so.
- May 2020 – Sep 2021 **Full-Time Software Engineer** – Continuum Industries | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Worked on: Machine Learning-operations, development-operations, identity and access management, geographic information system data preparation, genetic algorithm research
- Sep 2019 – May 2020 **Lab Demonstrator** – School of Informatics, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- BSc Computer Science course: *Software Engineering & Machine Learning*
 - Thrived in passing on my knowledge and helping students to not only succeed at their studies but to gain a deep understanding of and appreciation for the fundamental concepts of what they study.
- May 2019 - Aug 2019 **Mobile Team Intern** – Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) | *Bern, Switzerland*
- Worked on an iOS application to support visually impaired train passengers in finding the right train, its entrance, and getting off at the right stop. Interacted with stakeholders and users and gained a deep understanding of why mobility is important to be accessible to *everyone*
 - Furthermore, I designed and implemented an Internet of Things device to sense dangerous situations in and around train stations remotely.
- Jan 2019 – May 2019 **Part-time Data Analyst Intern** – Goldwind Australia | *Sydney, Australia*
- Learned to appreciate the need for renewable, clean energy and had my first experience with immense amounts of data
 - Designed and implemented a custom platform for data analysis on wind turbine performance data. With this platform, my team could assess and extrapolate wind turbine performances.
- May 2017 – Aug 2017 **VR Game Engineer Intern** – Software Engineering Italy | *Catania, Italy*
- Alzheimer's, autism, and dementia are conditions that impact an individual's life to the point of not being auto-sufficient. In this internship, I have learned to appreciate the fight against these hardships and worked on an EU-funded development project for a Virtual Reality therapy suite to bring expensive therapies to everyone who needs them.
- Oct 2015 – Jun 2016 **Civil Servant** – Caritas Salzburg | *Salzburg, Austria*
- Worked at three refugee camps in the Salzburg region, supported the office work, and directly interacted with refugees. It was my first contact with people battered by wars, conflicts, and unequal treatment due to their beliefs and sexual preferences. It is there that my drive to make this world more equal started.
- Sep 2013 – Feb 2014 **iOS Developer** – iLoghos | *Vienna, Austria*
- Designed and implemented the first two versions of the iLoghos iOS application for a friend. The application shared information about the Coptic world to believers across the German speaking countries.
- Jul 2013 **Airplane Maintenance Intern** – Triavio Srl. | *Calatabiano, Italy*
- Learned how to conduct checks and repair works on leisure aircraft and understood the complexity and the sheer number of components that can fail.
- Jun 2012 **Machine Assembly Intern** – Franz Haas Keks- und Waffelmaschinen | *Obersdorf, Austria*
- Supported the assembly line for industrial-scale cookie making machines. My first job - I was not too fond of it but cherished the discipline it has provided me with. I would not be the same person without it.

Honors and Awards

- Jun 2022 **Fulbright Austria - Fulbright Scholarship Nominee** *Fulbright, Austria*
- Nominated for a Fulbright scholarship to attend a 2-year graduate program in the United States
- Feb 2019 **UNSW - WiseTech Global COMP9323 Group Price** *Sydney, Australia*
- Award for the three highest scoring students of the E-Enterprise project course
- May 2018 **University of Edinburgh - Edinburgh Award Leadership** *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- In recognition of success in the role of President of the Edinburgh Entrepreneurs
- May 2017 **Start-Hack SBB Challenge 1st Price** *St. Gallen, Switzerland*
- Winning team at the St. Gallen Start Hackathon for the SBB challenge
- Oct 2016 **GUTS 1st Price** *Glasgow, Scotland*
- Overall winning team at the Glasgow University Tech Society Hackathon
- Jun 2015 **Secondary Vocational College (HTBLA) Eisenstadt - Top Performing Student Award** *Eisenstadt, Austria*
- Award for outstanding academic and extracurricular performances

Extra-Curricular

- Sep 2023 - Present **MITaly Board Member**
- Representing and supporting the MITaly society in event organization and administration.
- Jan 2023 - Mar 2023 **Travelling Central and South America**
- Enriched my cultural affinity for the Latin culture in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay.
- May 2022 **Guest Lecturer** – Faculty of Science, UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- Guest lecture on "Software Architecture for AI" in the MSc course *Web Services and Cloud-Based Systems* and hence extending my teaching from the tutorial to the classroom.
- Feb 2022 – Oct 2022 **Student/Staff Board Representative** – Informatics Institute, UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- Representing and improving the experience of the student and staff body of the MSc Information Science Data Science (track). My main focus is on making grading more accessible, forcing the UvA to change the contractual basis for senior teaching assistants, and making a more coherent syllabus.
- Feb 2022 – Aug 2022 **Co-Founder/Lead Free Period and Safer Sex Products Club** – UvA | *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- Scotland, as well as universities across the UK and Switzerland, fight against period inequality and make free access to period and safer sex products a fundamental aspect of their agenda. We want to bring this to the UvA, Amsterdam, and The Netherlands in general - inequality has to be fought on all fronts.
- Jun 2021 – Jul 2021 **Judge** – European Hyperloop Week | *Valencia, Spain*
- Judge for the first edition of the European Hyperloop Week for mission-critical software infrastructure – <https://hyperloopweek.com/>
- After my own Hyperloop experience, I enjoyed this opportunity to challenge and guide teams during the first European Hyperloop event. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, the interaction between judges and teams was purely online.
- Mar 2021 **Guest Lecturer** – School of Informatics, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Guest lecture on "Software Architecture for AI" in the BSc course *Software Engineering and Professional Practices*
- After working for a year at Continuum Industries, I returned to the class I have formally been lab demonstrating for to share my insights on microservice architectures for artificial intelligence.

- Nov 2018 – Jul 2019 **Co-founder/Aerodynamics Lead Engineer** – Hyperloop, UNSW | *Sydney, Australia / Los Angeles, USA*
- Co-founded the first UNSW Hyperloop team and reached 7th place out of 300 teams at the SpaceX Hyperloop challenge 2019 in Hawthorne, California
- Nov 2018 – May 2019 **Maker Mentor** – Maker Space, UNSW | *Sydney, Australia*
- Supported UNSW startups in the design and implementation of software and hardware projects with 3D printers, laser cutters, and integrated circuit etching, among other tools and manufacturing procedures.
- Sep 2017 – May 2018 **Co-Founder** – StartED | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Co-founded and organized UK's first conference targeting students who consider post-university careers in start-ups. Interacted with tens of European startups, incubators, accelerators, and entrepreneurship schools and learned how vast the engagement in innovation is across our union – <https://www.start-ed.eu/>
- Sep 2017 – May 2018 **Resident Assistant** – Residence Life, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Supported first-year students during their first experiences away from home and came in touch with major acts of violence and loss. Probably the experience most dear to my heart and one that has shaped me more than I am willing to admit.
- Sep 2017 – May 2018 **Peer Assisted Learning Scheme Leader** – School of Informatics, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Facilitated the learning experience for first-year Computer Science students - my first contact with tutoring students in a university setting, and I am incredibly fond of it up to this day.
- May 2016 – May 2018 **President** – Edinburgh Entrepreneurs Society, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- This office was probably one of my proudest achievements in extra-curricular work at the UoE, as I was the second person to hold it. Together with my team, I designed a new society structure, logo, and membership scheme. I organized events focused on personal development and promoted inter-society cooperation for events such as StartED, gatherings, and pub quizzes.
- Jan 2016 – May 2016 **Class Representative** – School of Engineering, UoE | *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- Represented the students of the course *Techniques of Management*.
- Jun 2015 – Present **Sailing Teacher** – Centro Velico Caprera | *Caprera, Italy*
- Sailing teacher for beginner and intermediate courses on dinghies and yachts. I have progressed from knowing nothing about sailing to excelling at the sport and passing on the knowledge I gained over the years in this school.
- Sep 2014 – Jun 2015 **Aerospace Department Student and Boarding-School Representative** – HTBLA-Eisenstadt | *Eisenstadt, Austria*
- With both positions I have highlighted the wishes and needs of my fellow students both at school and at our remote "home".
- Sep 2013 – Jun 2015 **Student Club Board Member** – Überflieger Eisenstadt | *Eisenstadt, Austria*
- During my last two years in Eisenstadt, I have been an active board member of our aerospace department student club. I have co-organized two Matura proms and managed the organization of other, smaller events.
- Sep 2013 – Jun 2015 **Co-Founder/Board Member Hockeytigers Eisenstadt** – HTBLA-Eisenstadt | *Eisenstadt, Austria*
- While I only discovered field hockey to be my second favourite sport after sailing late in high school, I co-founded the HTBLA-Eisenstadt's first team and organized the Burgenland-Lower Austria-Vienna school championships for two years in a row.

Skills & Background Knowledge

Languages

German *Native* | **Italian** *Native* | **English** *Fluent* | **Spanish** *Intermediate*

Skills

Programming *Python, R, GoLang, Matlab, Swift, Java, C++*

Computer Aided Design *CATIA, Autodesk Fusion 360, Autodesk AutoCAD*

Simulation Software *CATIA, Simulink ANSYS*

Manufacturing *casting, welding, wood and steel work, glass and carbon fibre treatment, laser-cutting, 3D-printing, integrated-circuit etching, airplane and engine maintenance*

Hobbies

Sailing, Climbing, Hiking, Reading

Latin Dance – Salsa & Batchata