

Sara Al Lawati

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Education

- Aug 2024 – Present** | **PhD (Computer Science), RMIT University**
- Research focuses on Human-Computer Interaction and Information Retrieval.
 - ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society Scholarship.
- Jul 2022 – Jul 2024** | **Master of Information Technology, RMIT University**
- 3.7/4.0 GPA.
 - Awarded Dean's Certificate of Commendation for Outstanding Results.
 - Awarded RMIT – Oman Consulate Scholarship.
- Jul 2018 – Jul 2021** | **Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, Deakin University**
- 3.9/4.0 GPA.
 - Awarded Oman Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship.

Experience

- Jun 2023 – Present** | **Student Researcher, ADM+S**
- First master's student from RMIT ever invited to become a member of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S).
 - Selected for HDR Student Representative of the ADM+S, acting as the voice representing students' needs relating to research and training opportunities.
 - Research duties include drafting proposals, securing funding, conducting user studies, and presenting findings.
 - Chairing weekly research group meetings with 54+ members, including senior researchers and PhD students, to strengthen connections and collaborations.
- Jun 2021 – Aug 2022** | **Business Development, Oman Plastic Industries LLC.**
- Role focused on developing business plans to promote product lines to clients. This included brand planning, logistics, and supplier management.
 - Secured first ever sale to a major national hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic, developing a new customer relationship in medical consumables.

Publications

Trippas, J. R., Al Lawati, S. F. D., Mackenzie, J., & Gallagher, L. (2024, July). What do users really ask large language models? an initial log analysis of google bard interactions in the wild. In Proceedings of the 47th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 2703-2707).

Sara Fahad Dawood Al Lawati (2025, April). I Am Not a Caveman: An Eye-tracking Study of How Users are Influenced to Search in the Era of GenAI. In Companion Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2025.

Volunteer

- Feb 2025 – Present** | **Committee Member, ACS (Australian Computer Society)**
- Supporting young ICT professionals through community-building events, career sessions, and workshops.
- Sep 2024 – Present** | **Kirrip Steward, RMIT University**
- Leading on-campus workshops, and health and well-being events to create impactful student experiences.
- Feb 2024 – Jul 2024** | **Peer Mentor and Administration Assistant, RMIT University**
- Shared experiences and provided academic guidance to fellow students.
 - Assisted students with inquiries at the student union information counter and handled phone inquiries.
- Aug 2023 – Nov 2023** | **Mentee, Mentorship Program, Cisco Australia**
- Built ongoing connections with tech leaders through weekly meetings, networking, and career events.

References

- Prof. Mark Sanderson, Dean of Research & Innovation for STEM College | Email: mark.sanderson@rmit.edu.au
- Dr. Johanne Trippas, Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow | Email: j.trippas@rmit.edu.au
- Gerrit Geertsema, Channel Sales Leader | Email: ggeertse@cisco.com