Ahmad Dawar Hakimi

ELLIS PhD Student · LMU Munich & University of Copenhagen · Munich, Germany

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Education

LMU Munich & University of Copenhagen — *Germany & Denmark*

ELLIS PhD in Natural Language Processing (Anticipated Submission: March 2027) — *April 2024 - Present*

- Supervisors: Hinrich Schütze (LMU Munich) and Isabelle Augenstein (University of Copenhagen)
- Research focus: Knowledge acquisition and training dynamics in LLMs, mechanistic interpretability, active learning, and human–LLM collaboration

Leipzig University — *Germany*

Master of Science in Computer Science - Final Grade: 1.2 (GPA: 4.00/4.00) — *Oct 2019 - Aug 2023*

- **Master Thesis:** Citance-Contextualized Summarization of Scientific Papers
- Compiled a high-quality, large-scale dataset, "Context-SciSumm" for citance-contextualized summarization
- Developed a three-step methodology to generate contextualized summaries for scientific documents using *LLMs* and evaluated each step through both human and automatic assessments (published at EMNLP 2023)

Leipzig University — *Germany*

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science - Final Grade: 2.1 (GPA: 3.70/4.00) — *Oct 2016 - Sep 2019*

- **Bachelor Thesis:** Using Syntactic Information for Sentence Embeddings

Experience

Machine Learning Engineer — *Leipzig, Germany*

Institute for Applied Informatics - Research Project KIRESys — *Dec 2022 – March 2023*

- Built a prototype to extract text and tabular data from electronic component PDFs, generate search keywords, and summarize technical documentation.

Research Assistant — *Leipzig, Germany*

NLP Department at Leipzig University - Research Project FAME — *April 2019 – Nov 2022*

- Investigated the use of syntactic information in sentence embeddings as part of bachelor's thesis research.
- Developed an adversarial benchmark for stance classification, revealing a 43.2% drop in model accuracy (EMNLP 2021).
- Introduced the task of Same Sentiment Classification (Findings of EMNLP 2021).

Student Research Assistant — *Leipzig, Germany*

NLP Department at Leipzig University - Research Project ILCM — *Oct 2017 – March 2019*

- Extended an R-based text mining tool and developed tests and technical documentation.
- Organized lab classes for Algorithms and Data Structures I & II.

Selected Publications

1. **Do We Still Need Humans in the Loop? Human vs. LLM Annotation in Active Learning for TikTok Hate Speech Detection**
   Ahmad Dawar Hakimi, Lea Hirlimann, Isabelle Augenstein, Hinrich Schütze — *EMNLP 2026 (Findings)*
2. **On Relation-Specific Neurons in Large Language Models**
   Yihong Liu, Runsheng Chen, Lea Hirlimann, **Ahmad Dawar Hakimi**, Mingyang Wang, Amir Hossein Kargaran, Sascha Rothe, François Yvon, Hinrich Schütze — *EMNLP 2025 (Main)*
3. **Time Course MechInterp: Analyzing the Evolution of Components and Knowledge in Large Language Models**
   Ahmad Dawar Hakimi, Ali Modarressi, Philipp Wicke, Hinrich Schütze — *ACL 2025 (Findings)*
4. **Citance-Contextualized Summarization of Scientific Papers**
   Shahbaz Syed*, **Ahmad Dawar Hakimi***, Khalid Al-Khatib, Martin Potthast — *EMNLP 2023 (Findings)*
5. **On Classifying whether Two Texts are on the Same Side of an Argument**
   Erik Körner, Gregor Wiedemann, **Ahmad Dawar Hakimi**, Gerhard Heyer, Martin Potthast — *EMNLP 2021 (Main)*
6. **Casting the Same Sentiment Classification Problem**
   Erik Körner, **Ahmad Dawar Hakimi**, Gerhard Heyer, Martin Potthast — *EMNLP 2021 (Findings)*

Grants & Awards

2024–26 **Google Research Grant**, $200,000 in compute credits

2025–26 **ELIAS & ELSA Mobility Grants**, ELIAS awarded twice; €7,800 in total funding

2020 **Deutschlandstipendium**, national merit scholarship for academic excellence

Skills & Languages

Languages German (Native), Dari (Native), English (Fluent), Latin (reading knowledge), French (Basic), Russian (Basic)

Tech Python, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Huggingface, vLLM, NumPy, pandas, Docker, HPC (Slurm), Git, Linux

Interests NLP, Large Language Models, Machine Learning, Interpretability, LLM Agents, LLM Evaluation, Pre-training and Post-training, RAG

Activities Running, Bodyweight Fitness, Road Cycling, Triathlon, Table Tennis, Basketball