

Baran Shajari

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Summary of Qualifications

Graduate researcher holding an M.Sc. (focus on **digitalization** and **human-computer interaction**) from McMaster and an Honours B.IT. from York University (Dean's Circle of Scholars, DARE Award), with hands-on expertise in **UML, Figma, Prototyping** (Low & High Fidelity), **Wireframing, Heuristic Evaluation**, and **User Research** gained through research (including a **controlled human experiment**), IT support, and project work at both institutions. Skilled in **technical documentation, requirements gathering**, and translating complex needs into structured deliverables, with strong **client-facing communication** developed through IT assistance, teaching assistantships, piano instructions, and presenting at international conferences (ICT4S, TiF). Highly organized, deadline-driven, and **proficient** in using development platforms such as **Webflow (HTML and CSS), Framer**, and **proficient** in **MS Office** (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), complex spreadsheets, and multilingual communication in English, Farsi, and Dari.

Work Experience

Research Assistant at McMaster University | September 2024 to Present

- Designed and executed **controlled human experiment** to study user behavior and adoption towards an AI agent, applying UX research methodologies (e.g., behavioral observation)
- Translated research findings into structured reports
- Synthesized **qualitative and quantitative data** into clear, actionable insights for companies undergoing digitalization
- Delivered presentations bridging research and design decision-making across diverse audiences

Teaching Assistant at McMaster University | September 2024 – April 2025

- Courses: Human-Computer Interaction, Object-Oriented Programming, Networking and Security
- Prepared structured documentation and learning materials to support consistent course delivery

Piano Instructor at Heidari Music School | June 2021 to present

- Build individualized learning plans for students at varying skill levels, demonstrating strong client communication and needs assessment

Research Assistant at York University | January 2023- January 2024

- Gathered and analyzed data from Fintech databases, documenting findings in organized formats for use by research leads
- Facilitated discovery sessions and prepared presentations, translating research insights into accessible formats for conference audiences
- Presented project work at the Teaching in Focus (TiF) Conference, demonstrating ability to communicate technical topics to diverse stakeholders
- Explored integration of Salesforce and similar platforms, linking software capabilities to potential real-world applications

Information Technology (IT) Specialist at Lassonde School of Engineering | May 2021 to May 2024

- Served as a front-line technical liaison between end users and IT infrastructure, gathering issue details and translating them into actionable resolution tasks
- Documented recurring problems, resolution steps, and equipment status to support continuous improvement and knowledge sharing
- Managed multiple concurrent support requests under time pressure, prioritizing tasks to ensure prompt resolution
- Maintained organized records of requests, follow-ups, and outcomes using MS Excel, Outlook, and Word

Education

Master of Computer Science (Human-Computer Interaction and AI Focus), McMaster University, Expected 2026

Bachelor of Information Technology, York University, April 2024

- Received York Entrance scholarship (2020-2023), MAAN Award for the highest achieving female student in IT (2020-2022) and Dean's Award for Research Excellence (2023)

Secondary School Diploma, Earl Haig Secondary School, **Toronto,** Ontario, June 2020

- Peer leader training for a newcomer program certificate

RCM level 10 Practical Certificate Royal Conservatory of Music, June 2024

RCM level 8 Practical and Theory Certificate, Royal Conservatory of Music, June 2019

- First class honor

Teaching Elementary Piano Certificate, Royal Conservatory of Music, June 2020

Publications

- B. Shajari, X. Liu, K. Dagenais. and I. David "**Trust the AI, Doubt Yourself: The Effect of Urgency on Self-Confidence in Human-AI Interaction**". In: The 2nd Workshop on Human-Centered AI for Software Engineering (HumanAISE, Co-located with FSE)
- B. Shajari, I. David. "**Bridging the Silos of Digitalization and Sustainability by Twin Transition: A Multivocal Literature Review**". In: 2025 International Conference of Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainability (ICT4S).
- A. Sayadi, B. Shajari, and R. Janicki. "**Minimizing Inconsistency in Pairwise Comparison Matrices Using Genetic Algorithm**". In: 2025 59th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS).

Professional Development

Researcher and presenter at the International conference of ICT4S | June 2025

- Presented published research paper on sustainability, communicating complex findings to an international academic audience

Sponsored Student Attendance at the Annual Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (CAN-CWiC) | October 2024

- Discussed and learned different research topics with other women in computing
- Discussed my research field and its advantages to society

Student Researcher and Presenter at the Teaching in Focus Conference (TiF) | May 2023

- Facilitate the use of software and link its use to potential additional applications with the Salesforce applications platform or other similar types of applications.
- Breaking down Max Lab project assignments into accomplished tasks (what) and their ongoing meaning to students (why).
- Presented the work on Max Lab projects

Projects

Human-AI Interaction Experiment

- User research and human-AI usability testing
- Published work at HumanAISE workshop

Personal Academic Webpage (HTML/CSS)

- <https://baranshajari.github.io>

Piano Robot Prototype Project

- UX/UI project focused on prototyping (both high and low fidelity) a robot that assists young children in piano practice: [Full paper on robot prototype testing](#)

iFixit Project

- UX focus on the design of technical solutions and making existing projects better user experience

Website-Design Project

- Web design with a summary of iFixit work and personal profile for UX improvement and methods used in UX design: <https://baranshajari.wixsite.com/my-eportfolio>