

# Adaora Mbanefo

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Science | Majors: Statistics, Linguistics, Actuarial Science | Minors: Computer Science

Overall GPA: 3.79

Relevant Coursework: Probability, Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Modeling, Applied Machine Learning, Statistical Learning, Linear Algebra, Data Structures, Computer Systems, Computational Linguistics

Champaign, IL

May 2028

## EXPERIENCE

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### ChatterLab, University of Chicago

Research Assistant

Chicago, IL

June 2026 – August 2026

- Develop PyTorch-based deep learning pipelines for multi-party speech analysis on a three-year corpus of naturalistic caregiver-child interactions, modeling conversational dynamics across speakers and developmental stages
- Examine raw audio clips and apply speaker diarization to align audio with transcripts, building structured features and ground-truth annotations for automated classification models
- First author, ICIS 2026 abstract on automated classification of multi-party conversational speech

### Learning and Language Lab, University of Illinois

Research Assistant

Champaign, IL

August 2025 – Present

- Develop transformer-based model combining visual, linguistic, and BERT-derived features to predict eye-movement patterns
- Expand and curate eye-tracking corpus from 225k to 800k+ word fixations across skilled readers
- Engineer Python pipelines to extract, quantify, and visualize naturalistic caregiver-child interactions for publication

### Inhance Supply Chain Solutions

Data Science Intern

Johannesburg, South Africa

June 2025 – August 2025

- Built automated Python forecasting pipeline using Darts and StatsForecast for time-series preprocessing and modeling
- Integrated forecasting system with AWS Redshift and Lambda for real-time execution, deploying to 400+ warehouses

### Adanian Labs, Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence

Artificial Intelligence Engineering Intern

Nairobi, Kenya

July 2024 – October 2024

- Co-designed Mwalimu AI, an AI-powered CBC curriculum planner for Kenyan educators using Python
- Fine-tuned the Agricare chatbot backend services, increasing response accuracy by 20%

## LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING

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### Littafin Fasaha

Learning Engine & Interactive Coding Contributor

Remote

March 2026 – Present

- Fine-tune large language models to deliver interactive computer science instruction in Hausa and other underrepresented African languages
- Develop frontend components that integrate model outputs with the user-facing interface, walking students through coding exercises interactively

### National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)

Research Conference Committee Industry Networking Lead

Champaign, IL

October 2025 – April 2026

- Coordinated with NCSA Industry Program and university partners to identify and invite industry participants
- Developed panel questions to align with the 2026 conference theme
- Moderated and led industry panel discussions, facilitating structured and professional dialogue

### HM Pitje Foundation

Project Manager, Advisory Board, Volunteer

Johannesburg, South Africa

July 2022 – Present

- Organized book drives raising \$3,000+ and supporting digital skills training for 500+ youth in Soshanguve

## SKILLS

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**Technical:** Python, C++, C, Java, PyTorch, TensorFlow, NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-learn, Hugging Face, Git, Swift, Flutter, Dart, Excel

**Languages:** English (fluent), French (fluent), Sesotho (fluent), Mandarin (intermediate)