



CURRICULUM VITAE

Mert Sefa Yavuz

AI R&D Engineer · Istanbul, Türkiye

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SUMMARY

Year-3 Computer Engineering student at Gebze Technical University and AI R&D engineer. At ThinkVoice AI and Kodiks I work on speech technologies (TTS/STT), NLP and machine learning; in Freya's (YC S25) YZ50 program I build models from scratch. My football prediction models perform on par with the world's best at 58–59% accuracy. Ranked 1st in the world in the Caribou Math Contest and taught C to 120+ students at GTU.

EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow · Freya (YC S25)

Sep 2026 – Present

Remote

- From a single neuron to loss functions, backpropagation and embeddings
- Hands-on work on language modeling and training dynamics
- Goal: help Türkiye become a producer, not just a consumer, of AI

AI R&D Engineer · ThinkVoice AI

Jan 2026 – Present

Hybrid

- Research and development on TTS and STT systems
- Built an evaluation platform that tests TTS voices with people (HFR, MOS)
- Presented the team's Voice AI solutions B2B at GITEX AI Türkiye 2026

AI Researcher & Developer · Kodiks Bilişim

Jan 2026 – Present

Istanbul · Hybrid · Part-time

- NLP research & development
- Training TTS and STT models
- An AI customer agent built on n8n

Project Assistant Engineer · Nexa Technology

Sep 2025 – Mar 2026

Istanbul / Remote

- LLM training and company projects during the summer internship
- LLMOps-focused project support in a fully remote team

Workshop Head · GTU Computer Society

Jul 2025 – Jan 2026

Gebze · Hybrid

- Taught C from scratch: 250 applicants, 120+ attendees
- Nearly half were prep-year students; most never missed a class
- Arranged instructors, schedules and workshop logistics

Student Researcher — TÜBİTAK · Gebze Technical University

Jun 2025 – Jun 2026

Gebze · Hybrid

- Built the project's website, design and database
- Worked on building the model (transfer learning)
- Credited in the resulting paper

Winter Intern · Altınay Savunma Teknolojileri

Jan 2025 – Feb 2025

Teknopark Istanbul · On-site

- Observed in-house deep-learning projects and received foundational training
- Wrote an OpenCV beginner's guide for the team and future interns
- Presented my learnings and contributions at the end

Summer Intern · Dip

Jul 2022 – Aug 2022

Istanbul · On-site

- Database design and query optimization with Microsoft SQL Server
- Completed the company's intern training program
- Gave regular verbal reports to the team in English

Winter Intern · Çözüm Makina

Jan 2022 – Feb 2022

Istanbul · On-site

- A product I designed in SketchUp was actually used in production
- Soldered and hot-air assembled components on circuit boards
- Learned circuit schematics and electronic components hands-on

PROJECTS

UCL Prediction Desk

2026

A Champions League 2026-27 prediction platform. Match up two clubs to see win probabilities, the most likely score and expected goals, build your own starting XI and simulate the season thousands of times. With 59% accuracy over 1,372 matches from the last 10 seasons, it performs on par with the world's best prediction models.

Machine Learning · Monte Carlo · Web · uclguess.com

TTS Evaluation Platform

2026

A web platform for testing synthetic voices with people: HFR (human or AI?), weighted MOS scoring, WER/CER views, model profiles and an admin dashboard.

Next.js · TypeScript · TTS · github.com/mertsefayavuz/tts-evaluation

Head Coach

2026

A mobile football management career sim: squad, tactics, transfers, player development and the board. Born from my love of Champ Man 16; paused out of respect for the rights holder.

Flutter · Dart · github.com/mertsefayavuz/head-coach

C From Scratch

2025

The C course I taught at GTU Computer Society: 250 applicants, 120+ attendees. A ready-made starter path for students is on GitHub.

C · Teaching · github.com/mertsefayavuz/C-Lessons

Doldu

2025

An appointment management system: a REST API on NestJS and MongoDB with JWT login, role-based authorization, service management and a web app.

NestJS · MongoDB · TypeScript · JWT · [🔒 private repo](#)

World Cup Prediction Model

2026

A Gradient Boosting + Poisson model combining Elo, form and FIFA squad quality. With 58% accuracy on 955 unseen matches it matches the world's best commercial models and bookmakers (55–58%). Calibrated probabilities and a Monte Carlo tournament simulation; it correctly picked Spain as champion.

Gradient Boosting · Elo · Monte Carlo · Python · [LinkedIn post](#)

AI Company

2026

An AI team of six specialized roles: it plans, writes, runs and scores the Python project you describe, and keeps improving it on its own until it's done or honestly admits it's stuck. Each role can use a different model: Claude, OpenAI, DeepSeek or Ollama.

Python · Multi-agent · LLM · [🔒 private repo](#)

Nanotech Research Project

2025

On a TÜBİTAK project joining three GTU departments, I built the website, database and model, and was credited in the resulting paper.

Python · Transfer Learning · Database

LinkedInBooster

2025

An automation that collects news by interest, writes a short comment with a local LLM (Ollama) and posts it via Playwright after your approval.

Python · Ollama · Playwright · github.com/mertsefayavuz/LinkedInBooster

OpenCV Starter Pack

2025

A short, effective Python-OpenCV guide I wrote for teammates and future interns during my Altınay internship.

Python · OpenCV · github.com/mertsefayavuz/OpenCV-GUI

TÜBİTAK 2204-A Projects2020–23

Three math research projects at BİLSEM: Sequential Relation & Geometric Counting (2020), Erased Points (2022), Curve Design with Algorithmic Spirals (2023).
Applied Math · Algorithm Design

EDUCATION

- Gebze Technical University

2024 – 2028

BSc, Computer Engineering
- Kadıköy Anatolian High School & Maarif College

2019 – 2024

High school
- BİLSEM — Science & Art Center

Gifted Program

AWARDS & CERTIFICATES

- Caribou — 1st in the World 2023

Ranked 1st in the world in the international, Canada-based Caribou Math Contest.
- 'An Idea for Rize' — 1st Place 2020

A contest by the Rize Governorship, RTEÜ and the Rize Foundations Union. Part of my project, a giant tea glass, was actually built.
- Freya Research Fellow 2026

Selected for Freya (YC S25)'s YZ50 program.
- AI Congress 2026

Represented GTU as a team and received our certificate from the rector.
- GITEX AI Türkiye 2026

Presented our Voice AI solutions with the ThinkVoice AI team.
- Cyber Security School 2025

Completed the Coderspace program.

SKILLS

- AI

Speech tech (TTS/STT) · Machine learning · NLP · Deep learning · LLMOps · Automation (n8n) · OpenCV
- Code & Data

Python · C · C++ · SQL & database design · Web (Next.js / TypeScript) · Algorithm design · Applied math
- Tools

Flutter / Dart · Playwright · Ollama · Oracle SQL Developer / MSSQL · SketchUp
- Social

Teaching & mentoring · Leadership · Communication & presenting · Team coordination · Debating

VOLUNTEERING

- TEMA Foundation — Nature Volunteer

Oct 2020 – Jun 2024
- Turkish Red Crescent — Donation Volunteer

May – Jun 2021
- New Life Elderly Care Center — Regular Visitor

Social services

LANGUAGES

- Turkish — Native
- English — Professional (C1)
- German — Elementary (A2)
- Spanish — Elementary

HOBBIES

Football market · Photography · Writing poetry · Historical games · Walking · Debating · Coin collecting · Table tennis · Science everywhere