

SAVINA PALIHAKKARA

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Computer Science

09/2024 – 08/2028 (Expected)

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

- **Relevant Coursework:** Software Development, Data Structures & Algorithms, Database Systems, Software Management, Network Computing, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity.

CO-OP STATUS

Completed first co-op work term in Summer 2026. Available for a 4- or 8-month co-op term starting January 2027.

SKILLS

Programming: Java, C, C#, C++, Python, HTML, SQL, R, JavaScript, jQuery, Assembly, LaTeX

Systems: Networking Fundamentals (OSI Model), REST APIs, Client-Server Architecture, Linux Basics, System Architecture

Software: Power BI, MATLAB, GitHub, Android Studio, Microsoft Office Suite, Git, Power Automate

Interpersonal: Project Management, Effective Communication, Time Management, Ability to Work as a Team, Organization, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Self-learning, Leadership and Collaboration

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Instructor Development Support Co-op Student

05/2026 – 08/2026

Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

- Developed a syllabus compliance checker using Python, Flask, OCR, and semantic text analysis to automate syllabus reviews.
- Built and maintained web-based educational resources and tools using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Supported Brightspace content, accessibility improvements, testing, and troubleshooting for Faculty of Computer Science projects.
- Collaborated with faculty and team members to research, test, and improve digital learning tools and workflows.

PROJECTS

AI Chatbot (Local LLM Web Chatbot) - Personal Project

02/2026

- Built a web application using Python, FastAPI, and Ollama, integrating quantized Llama 3.1 (8B) for efficient local inference.
- Designed a responsive browser UI with session-based memory and developed RESTful APIs for real-time client-server interaction and deployment-ready architecture.

Lexical Analyzer & Syntax Scanner - CSCI 2115 Theory of CS, Dalhousie University

12/2025

- Built a lexical analysis engine in Flex to efficiently tokenize input based on formal grammar specifications.
- Developed a syntax scanner to classify tokens, detect errors, and support parsing workflows using finite automata principles.

Bluetooth-Style Messaging Software - Personal Project

05/2025

- Developed a real-time wireless chat app in Python with socket networking, focusing on synchronization and performance optimization.

Gen-Z Slang Translation Tool - CSCI 1107 Social Computing, Dalhousie University

03/2025

- Collaborated with a team of three to build a Gen-Z Slang Translation Tool, contributing to UI design, implementation, and improving translation accuracy.

WORK EXPERIENCES

Instructor Development Support <i>Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS</i>	09/2026 – Present
- Continued with the CSEd team in a part-time role after completing the Summer 2026 co-op, supporting ongoing educational technology projects. - Maintain and improve digital tools and resources developed during the co-op, including the syllabus checker, web resources, and Brightspace content.	
Uber Eats Delivery Driver <i>Uber, Halifax, NS</i>	09/2025 - Present
- Deliver food orders accurately and on time across Halifax while providing friendly customer service. - Plan efficient routes and manage multiple deliveries using the Uber Eats app and GPS tools.	
Library Assistant <i>Public Library, Matara, Sri Lanka</i>	05/2024 – 08/2024
Customer assistance while supporting book organization, cleanliness, and daily library operations to ensure smooth service.	
Student Leader <i>Rahula College, Matara, Sri Lanka</i>	01/2020 – 03/2024
Demonstrated excellent organizational and leadership skills by managing schedules, coordinating meetings, and overseeing the execution of various projects and activities.	

CERTIFICATES

Cyber Security Fundamentals <i>IBM SkillBuild</i>	01/2026
AI-900 - Azure AI Fundamentals: Artificial Intelligence Concepts <i>SkillPass, NS</i>	01/2026
Build Your Skills as an Instructional Designer <i>LinkedIn</i>	06/2026
Analyzing and Visualizing Data with Microsoft Power BI <i>LinkedIn</i>	06/2026
Business Writing Professional Certificate by Grammarly <i>Grammarly</i>	06/2026

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Scouter <i>Rahula College, Matara, Sri Lanka</i>	01/2013 – 05/2022
Progressed from Cub Scout to Senior Scout while developing leadership, teamwork, and discipline through camps, community events, and mentoring junior scouts.	
Member of Karate Team <i>Rahula College, Matara, Sri Lanka</i>	01/2011 – 08/2024
Trained and competed for over 13 years, earning a Black Belt and demonstrating discipline, dedication, and perseverance.	
Member of Science Society <i>Rahula College, Matara, Sri Lanka</i>	01/2023 – 01/2024
Actively participated in science society activities and collaborative projects, promoting teamwork and scientific thinking.	