

Dr Chas Nelson

INTERNATIONAL DATA CONSULTANT

Glasgow, United Kingdom

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Summary

PhD data scientist focused on using data and technology to change the world for the better. 10+ years experience in data for public good including data-driven public sector insights, data capture and visualisation for biomedical research, and artificial intelligence for medical devices. Driven by creating sustainable transformation and development through data and technology.

Experience

Director • International Data Consultant

2022–current, 2019

FJELLTOPP

- initially freelance data scientist helping Fjelltopp achieve their mission to harmonise the world's public data
- Managed projects worth over \$1M, working with international stakeholders such as IGOs, governments and public health companies
- Provided technical strategy and leadership on health informatics software used by 50+ countries
- Led on the delivery of the new WHO African Regional Health Data Hub
- Drove forward the adoption of international data standards in the public sector whilst delivering the Zambia National Research Repository
- Improved data collection and cleaning processes for Rabies surveillance in Tanzania and Philippines
- Led high-quality data analysis driving World Health Organisation and national policy in Ukraine and Kazakhstan

International Data Consultant

2023–current

ECTAD, FAO BANGLADESH

- Brought in to salvage a failing national animal health informatics system for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Reduced monthly data failures from >10% of users to <1% within 3 months
- Developed a 12-month strategy for increased up time (99+%) and data completeness (80+%)
- Coordinated and led a team of 8 national and international advisors implementing a new quality management system across the project
- Worked with government and implementing partners in prioritising and delivering data visualisation and reporting requirements

Chief Technology Officer • Founder

2020–2022

GLIFF.AI

- Founding director of gliff.ai, a medical artificial intelligence company (spun out from Durham University)
- As CTO, built the company into a high-growth MedTech AI SME with a 20x increase in valuation over 2 years
- Pioneered the development of new data management software for MedTech AI using Python, SQL, Typescript, React and Azure
- Personally involved in securing and managing over £1M in investment from Innovate UK and private equity investments
- Author on the Pistoia Alliance's Toolkit for Implementing Best Practices in AI and ML
- Led our diversity strategy, working with our team of 15, leading to gliff.ai becoming a signatory of the Tech Talent Charter
- gliff.ai ceased trading in 2023 with a management buy-out of the IP

Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Research Fellow in Data Science • EPSRC Doctoral Prize Research Fellow

2018–2020

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

- Awarded two fully-funded independent research fellowships focussed on data science for biomedicine at the University of Glasgow
- Developed bioimage analysis approaches in Python for understanding zebrafish brain responses in multidimensional imaging data
- Built collaborations across the world, including at the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology - one of the top 20 research bodies globally
- Invited to speak at local and national public science events including Pint of Science and the Institute of Physics Public Lecture Series

Postdoctoral Researcher

2017–2018

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

- Developed novel computer vision technologies leading to publication in the 5th highest ranked journal in the field
- Collaborated with researchers at the University of Edinburgh's British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence
- Organised the Glasgow Imaging Network and conference bringing together 80+ researchers leading to 50% creating new collaborations

PhD in Computer Science

2013–2017

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

- Thesis title: *Mathematical Morphology for Quantification in Biological and Medical Image Analysis*
- Won £75k+ in UKRI EPSRC and other funding to carry out PhD research
- Developed and deployed image analysis and data science solutions with collaborators at the University of Essex and with the NHS
- Published 10 papers, 2 of which were in top 5 computer vision journals
- Awarded Biophysical Sciences Institute Junior Fellowship for outstanding interdisciplinary research and leadership

Master of Science in Biology and Physics within the Natural Sciences Programme

2009–2013

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

- First Class Honours
- Thesis title: *Scratching away at cancer with image analysis*