

Nour Elkhawass

nelkhawa@uwaterloo.ca · +1 647-299-6501 · linkedin.com/in/nour-elkhawass
nourelkhawass.com · ON, Canada

EDUCATION

University of Toronto Toronto, ON
MA Economics (Teaching Assistantship) Incoming Sept 2026 – 2027

University of Waterloo Waterloo, ON
BA Honours Economics, Arts and Business, Co-op 2020 – 2025

- Upper-Year Economics Average: 92%. Relevant Coursework: Financial Economics, Advanced Micro- & Macroeconomics, Machine Learning in Economics, Senior Honours Essay.

Institut Catholique de Paris Paris, France
French Language & Cultural Studies (Exchange Program) 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Economic Affairs Intern Dec 2025 – Present
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok, Thailand

- Conducted country-level research for a survey on AI adoption in trade facilitation across ESCAP member states to inform the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation 2026 Report; to be published June 8th.
- Authored country-specific policy briefs on AI integration in customs administrations for South Korea, France, Pakistan, and Singapore.
- Managed and maintained ESCAP web-pages for Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum x Paperless Trade Week 2026 events and participants.

Consultant Intern – Data & Business Analyst, Market Research Jan – Dec 2024
IBM Payments Center, IBM Consulting Toronto, ON

- Forecasted U.S. cheque payment trends (2024-2027) using Federal Reserve data and regression modelling; analysis contributed to data-driven decision making on modernization initiatives.
- Conducted multi-region market research on check and wire payment systems, enabling the product team to prioritize high-growth regions and shape IBM's financial services GTM strategy.

Business Development Representative May 2022 – Apr 2023
Tugboat Logic by OneTrust Toronto, ON

- Developed and executed a daily outbound lead gen workflow, resulting in 144% quota attainment (Q1) and 109% (Q2). Closed \$17,000+ in pipeline revenue through cold outreach, nurturing decision-maker relationships and aligning solutions to compliance needs (SOC2, ISO27001, GDPR).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant – AI Adoption & Policy June – July 2025
Canadian AI Adoption Initiative (CAIAI), University of Waterloo Waterloo, ON

- Conducted comparative analyses of international AI adoption strategies (U.S., UK, France, Singapore, Canada) to identify policy gaps in Canada's framework.
- Synthesized OECD, World Bank, Stanford HAI, and academic literature into actionable insights and research briefs for multi-stakeholder workshops.

Senior Honours Thesis Sept – Dec 2025
University of Waterloo Waterloo, ON

- **Title:** "AI Diffusion and Productivity Divergence in Developing Economies", supervised by Professor Horatiu Rus.

- Awarded 2026 Senior Honours Essay Convocation Award; accepted for presentation at the 60th Annual Meetings of the Canadian Economics Association (CEA 2026).
- Analyzed how AI diffusion through international trade affects productivity growth across 47 countries (panel data 2012-2022); found empirical evidence that human capital acts as a binding constraint on translating AI-embodied imports into productivity gains.
- Findings suggest AI-embodied diffusion operates as a force for global income divergence due to human capital constraints in developing economies.

Economic Research Writer

Jan 2024 – Apr 2025

UW Economics Society, University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON

- Authored research articles on global food insecurity and the cyclical decline of empires, synthesizing economic theory and historical data into accessible narratives, published on UW Economics Society website.

Additional Research Papers

University of Waterloo

- *Why Do Some Former Colonies Prosper While Others Lag?* (ECON421, Apr 2025) — Empirical analysis of how historical institutions and post-independence governance impact long-term development outcomes across former UK colonies using cross-country regression analysis.
- *Lobbying for Foreign U.S. Military Aid* (ECON443, Apr 2025) — Developed game-theoretic model exploring how politicians optimize aid policy when lobbying interests conflict with voter preferences.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Islamic Moral Economy Content Creator

Dec 2025 – Present

The Transcend Journal | TikTok & Substack

- Produce educational content on Islamic moral economy covering Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, Ibn Khaldun, and the political economy of colonialism and development.
- Grew account to 5K+ followers and 500K+ views across videos on TikTok.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Programming: R, Python, STATA, SQL, LaTeX.

Methods: Econometric Modelling, Panel Data Analysis, Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Game Theory, Regression Forecasting, Cross-Country Analysis.

Languages: English (native), Arabic (native), French (beginner).

Certifications: IBM AI Associate Data Scientist, AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner.

Research Interests: Development Economics, Innovation Economics, Islamic Political & Moral Economy, AI & Trade Policy.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2026 Senior Honours Essay Convocation Award in Economics	2026
Sarah Inam Memorial Award	2025
Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning Award	2025
C.D. Howe Memorial Foundation Scholarship (Excellence in International Trade)	2022, 2023, 2025
University of Waterloo Merit Scholarship	2021