



Aalto University
School of Science

Machine Learning, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence major ("Macadamia")

Orientation

Pekka Marttinen

Pekka.Marttinen@aalto.fi

Jorma Laaksonen

Jorma.Laaksonen@aalto.fi

Talayeh Aledavood

talayeh.aledavood@aalto.fi

Lecture hall T4 (CS building)

25.8.2026

Outline of the day

12:00 Opening and welcome

12:05 Overview of Macadamia

12:15 Faculty and research group presentations (part 1)

13:00 Coffee and bun break

13:15 Faculty and research group presentations (part 2)

14:00 Students introduce themselves

14:30 Introduction to studies by senior Macadamia students

14:50 Questions and answers

Faculty



Pekka Marttinen
Head of
Macadamia
(until Aug 2026)



Talayeh Aledavood
Head of
Macadamia
(starting Sep 2026)



Jorma Laaksonen
Vice Head of
Macadamia



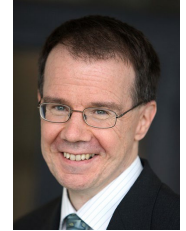
Aki Vehtari



Juho Kannala



Maarit Korpi-
Lagg



Heikki Mannila



Lauri Juvela



Mikko Kurimo



Paavo Alku



Tom Bäckström

Faculty cont.



Arno Solin



Riku Linna



Wilhelmiina
Hämäläinen



Jaakko Hollmén



Alexander Jung



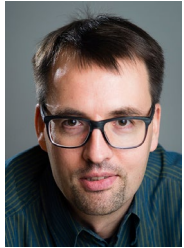
Sebastian
Szyller



Azade
Farshad



Francesco
Croce



Jussi Rintanen



Samuel Kaski



Juho Rousu



Harri
Lähdesmäki



Vikas Garg



Qi Chen



Eric Malmi



Yousef
Yeganeh

And many others...

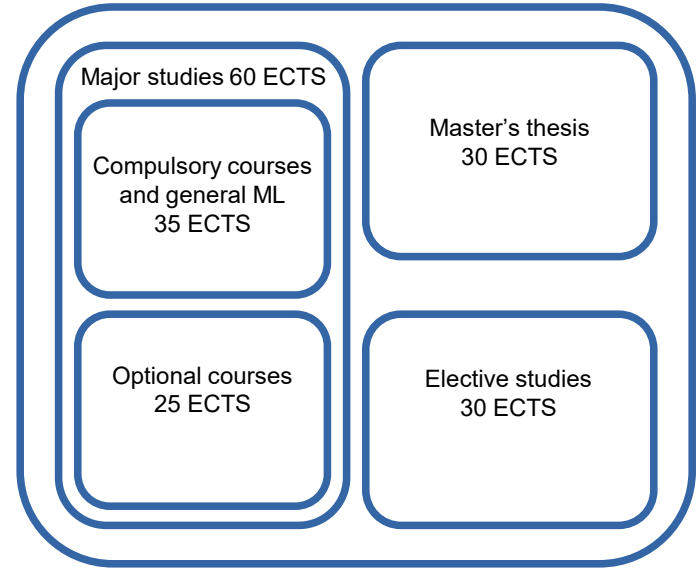
Information about studies

Macadamia curriculum:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/programmes/masters-programme-in-computer-communication-and-information-sciences/curriculum-2026-2028>

Optional courses grouped under five themes:

Bioinformatics and digital health / Speech & language / Large-scale computational methods / Optimization / Courses with special arrangements



Studies in the first autumn (periods I-II)

Compulsory courses:

CS-E4715 *Supervised Machine Learning* (I-II)

Recommended major courses:

CS-E5710 *Bayesian Data Analysis* (I-II)

CS-E4650 *Methods of Data Mining* (I-II)

Course information available in the *MyCourses* system

<https://mycourses.aalto.fi/my/>

and in the *Sisu* system

<https://sisu.aalto.fi/>



Studies in the first autumn (periods I-II)

Possible optional courses:

- CS-E5795 *Computational Methods in Stochastics* (I-II)
- ELEC-E5500 *Speech Processing* (I)
- CS-XXXX *Special Course in ML, DS and AI* (varying topics)
- CS-C3240 *Machine Learning* (I) if you haven't taken such
- CS-A1113 *Basics in Programming* (I-II) if you lack Python skills
- CS-E5885 *Modeling Biological Networks* (II)
- CS-E3220 *Declarative Programming* (I-II)
- CS-E4700 *Logic and Hard Computational Problems* (I-II)

See also other elective courses in the CCIS and Macadamia study guides.

Note: A full minor can be included in the elective studies.

Language studies

The degree must include 3 credits of language studies.

English recommended for non-native English speakers.

This can also be substituted by a Finnish course. (contact anu.kuusela@aalto.fi)

Of course, you can take both!

For courses, see: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/language-and-communication-studies/teaching>

Any course with 'o' and 'w' is acceptable (oral and writing).

Personal study plan ("HOPS")

Every student at Aalto **must** make the HOPS

Process in Macadamia:

- The student submits the HOPS in Sisu (by now!)
- Sisu automatically accepts the HOPS if it's consistent with the curriculum ("selections done" text becomes visible)
- Otherwise, Anu Kuusela sends the HOPS to Talayeh/Pekka for acceptance
- If there are any problems, ask Anu for guidance

Questions?

Study coordinator: anu.kuusela@aalto.fi or meeri.heimo@aalto.fi

→ Updates of study plans

Vice Head:

Jorma.Laaksonen@aalto.fi → In particular questions about MSc theses

Responsible Head of Major: talayeh.aledavood@aalto.fi
(pekka.marttinen@aalto.fi)

Other services at Aalto University, see <https://www.aalto.fi/en>

Macadamia Q&A sessions

- Q&A sessions for all Macadamia students.
- Approximately twice per semester.
- Possibility to meet the major head and vice head and ask questions
→ Free buns served!
- The first meeting, Monday, Oct. 26, at 4 pm.

E-mail list for all the Macadamia students starting this fall:

macadamia2026@aalto.fi

A Slack/Telegram/WhatsApp for your internal communications?

Next

12:15 Faculty and research group presentations (part 1)

13:00 Coffee break

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