

# Maaz Shaikh

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## Professional Summary

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PhD candidate with 10 years of manufacturing experience, extensive field research in remote Himalayan regions, and proven multilingual abilities. Combines technical expertise in equipment operation and data analysis with strong public engagement, heritage interpretation, and outdoor leadership skills. Managed \$18,900 USD in competitive research grants. Native Urdu/Hindi fluency with advanced English proficiency.

## Education

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<b>PhD in Linguistics</b> University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada	Expected August 2026
<b>Master of Philosophy in Linguistics</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India	2021
<b>Master of Arts in Linguistics</b> University of Delhi, New Delhi, India	2019
<b>Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering</b> University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India	2017

## Core Skills

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- Research, analysis, and report writing; data organization and documentation
- Public speaking, presentations, and training facilitation
- Event coordination, logistics, and stakeholder engagement
- Multilingual communication and translation (Urdu, Hindi, English, Marathi)
- Equipment operation and workplace safety protocols
- Community engagement and heritage interpretation
- Outdoor leadership in remote and challenging environments
- Team collaboration and independent work; reliability and discretion

## Experience

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### Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant      University of Alberta | Sep 2022–Present

- Conducted field research across 3 seasons (8+ months) in remote Ladakh at elevations up to 4,500m, managing logistics and community relations
- Built digital language archive (CoRSAL, University of North Texas) serving 1,000+ global users
- Taught 300+ students across 6 undergraduate courses; delivered final exam tutorials
- Designed and delivered community workshops including 5-day language documentation training (30+ participants) and intensive IPA/transcription sessions in Zangskar Valley
- Taught 10 Hindi/Urdu classes to 20 college students at 3,500m elevation in collaboration with local government college
- Presented at 6 international conferences in Canada, Europe, and India
- Managed \$18,900 USD in competitive grants (Firebird Foundation, MITACS, Endangered Language Fund)

**Production Worker                      Shobha Industries, Mumbai, India | Summers 2007–2017**

- Operated pipe fitting, soldering, drill press, and furnace equipment in kerosene burner manufacturing (family business)
- Worked 30–40 hrs/week summers (Apr–Jun) and 5–15 hrs/week year-round for 10 consecutive years
- Coordinated packaging, inventory, and distribution of products under multiple brand lines (Shobha, Reckon, Primer)
- Maintained safety protocols with high-temperature equipment in team of 10–50 employees

**Freelance Linguist (Remote)                      SIDE Global, PTW, Lionbridge | May 2020–Present**

- Perform QA and localization on large-scale Hindi/Urdu datasets for Google Gemini AI
- Completed 10,000+ audio-text alignments for text-to-speech synthesis
- Translated Elecont Weather app into Hindi/Urdu (10M+ downloads on Google Play)
- Collaborated with international teams on tight deadlines

**Freelance Translator (Remote)**

- Translated Elecont Weather mobile application into Hindi and Urdu (available on Google Play Store with 10M+ downloads) (2018)

**Research Fellow (Senior & Junior)                      Jawaharlal Nehru University, India | Jul 2019–Jun 2022**

- Conducted fieldwork in rural Uttar Pradesh documenting two minority languages (Azamgarhi, Bhojपुरi of Azamgarh)
- Developed digital corpora accessible to researchers worldwide
- Managed government fellowship worth INR 1,764,000 ( \$26,000 CAD)

**Common Room Councillor                      University of Delhi, India | 2018–2019**

- Elected to 5-member committee managing facilities for 200 postgraduate residents
- Organized 10 annual events (cultural nights, lectures, tournaments); managed common room operations
- Represented student interests with hostel administration

**Volunteer Guide for International Visitors                      Mumbai & Delhi, India | 2014–2019**

- Led heritage tours for international visitors
- Interpreted historical/cultural significance of landmarks to diverse audiences
- Adapted communication for non-native English speakers and varying cultural backgrounds

**Outdoor & Field Experience**

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**High-Altitude Trekking & Research                      Himalayan Region (Ladakh, India) | 2019–Present**

- Completed 5 treks up to 4,000m in remote terrain with extreme conditions (-20°C to +30°C)
- Conducted fieldwork in isolated valleys with limited infrastructure
- Demonstrated navigation, physical fitness, and environmental stewardship (Leave No Trace principles)
- Managed logistics and safety for overnight wilderness expeditions

## Skills

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**Languages:** Native (Urdu, Hindi) | Advanced (English) | Intermediate (Marathi, Persian) | Beginner (Punjabi, French) | Reading (Arabic, Sanskrit, Tibetan)

**Technical:** MS Office, Google Workspace, R, Python, Praat, ELAN, FLEx, QGIS, LaTeX, Audacity, Adobe Premiere

**Equipment:** Pipe fitting machines, soldering units, drill presses, industrial furnaces, power tools

**Outdoor:** High-altitude navigation, wilderness safety, camping, environmental stewardship

## Selected Awards & Grants

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**Grants:** Firebird Foundation (\$9,990 USD, 2024) | MITACS (\$6,000 CAD, 2023) | Endangered Language Fund (\$2,910 USD, 2022)

**Scholarships:** Thomson Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000 CAD) | Doctoral Recruitment Award (\$5,000 CAD) | Digital Scholarship Fellowship (\$1,200 CAD)

## Additional Information

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**Status:** International Student (Study Permit) | Eligible for Post-Graduation Work Permit

**Availability:** Part-time during academic terms;