

Sajad Sarlaki

Calgary, AB, Canada

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Research Interests

Assistive technologies; human–computer interaction (HCI); accessibility; autism support technologies; adaptive learning systems; software systems and performance; applied machine learning for education and health.

Education

University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada

M.Sc. in Electrical and Software Engineering (Thesis-based) Jan 2025 – Present

- ETHEREAL Research Group
- Focus: Assistive typing and communication systems for nonspeaking autistic individuals
- Methods: Computer vision, adaptive interfaces, AI-driven feedback

Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic), Tehran, Iran

Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Computer Engineering Sep 2017 – Mar 2022

- GPA: 17/20

Awards & Scholarships

ESE Graduate Research Award 2025–2026

Department of Electrical and Software Engineering, University of Calgary

Graduate Student Experience Award 2026

University of Calgary GSA

Publications

Sarlaki, S., et al.

Co-Designing Assistive Technologies with Nonspeaking Autistic Collaborators.

ACM Designing Interactive Systems (DIS), under review.

Conference Presentations

Gektin, S., Sarlaki, S., Blasko, G., et al. (Apr 22–25, 2026)

Insights from the inside: Ethical co-design of technology for and with nonspeaking autistic people

INSAR Annual Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic (Poster)

Gektin, S., Sarlaki, S., Blasko, G., et al. (Mar 27, 2026)

When speech isn't the default: Co-designing communication access and shared authority in higher education

CUNY Neurodiversity Conference, New York, USA (Panel)

Research & Professional Experience

BAYAN, Tehran, Iran

Front-End Developer May 2022 – 2024

- Modernized legacy front-end systems

- Developed mailbox and administrative interfaces
- Worked with SMTP, POP3, IMAP protocols
- Stack: React, Redux, Django, Redis

UTOPIA, Tehran, Iran

Co-Founder & Developer

Aug 2018 – Apr 2022

- Built agricultural technology platform (web and mobile)
- Led development and mentored undergraduate interns

Teaching Experience

University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada

Jan 2025 – Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- ENEL 353, ENCM 369, ENSF 619, SENG 533, SENG 438
- Led tutorials, labs, and grading

Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran

Sep 2019 – Sep 2021

Teaching Assistant

- Advanced Programming, Signals and Systems, Computational Intelligence
- Designed assignments and provided academic support

Projects (Selected)

- **Adaptive Typing and Communication Support System (Ongoing)**
Research-driven assistive typing platform integrating a tablet UI, custom RGB keyboard cues, audio feedback, and computer vision-based interaction. Project overview
- **Aragorn-js**
JavaScript library for creative and educational 2D content using WebGL (B.Sc. final project). GitHub repository
- **Project Collections**
Projects spanning computational intelligence, data mining, networks, databases, and machine learning.
[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

Skills

Programming: JavaScript, Python, Java, Node.js, Express

Web: React, React Native, HTML5, CSS3, SCSS/Sass, Redux

Systems: Git, Webpack, REST APIs, Redis, Django

Design: Figma

Methods: Agile/Scrum, responsive design, software testing

Service, Leadership & Community Engagement

Community-Based & Participatory Engagement

- Volunteer participant in the University of Calgary Beast Mode program, supporting inclusive wellness, regulation, and peer engagement
- Organized and facilitated accessible co-design meetings and informal community social sessions

Academic, Technical & Entrepreneurial Leadership

- Co-founder of an early-stage technology startup (UTOPIA)
- Organized technical workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions
- Mentored undergraduate interns in industry and academic settings

- Academic and technical service through graduate teaching assistant roles and open-source contributions

Languages

- English (Professional)
- Persian (Native)