


Irshad Irfanah Shaik Fareed

✉ iishaikf@gmail.com  irshad-shaik  irshadirfanah.co.uk

PROFILE

Backend Engineer at The Economist with 2.5 years of experience delivering high-performance features for 1.3M+ subscribers. Focused on architecting resilient backend services and optimising system performance for high-traffic, multi-region platforms. Currently pursuing an MSc at UCL focused on Tech Policy to bridge the gap between scalable engineering and responsible technology.

SKILLS

Languages

TypeScript, Node.js, GraphQL, HTML, CSS

Frameworks & Tools

AWS CDK, Docker, Next.js, React

AWS

Lambda, Step Functions, EventBridge, Cloudwatch, S3, ECS, EC2, CloudFormation

DevOps/CI

New Relic, Circle CI, Synthetic Tests

AI

Claude Code, ChatGPT Codex, OpenCode

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE


Software Engineer, *The Economist*

2023 – Present
London, UK

- **Empowered editorial teams to launch 150+ custom 'Rich Topic Pages'** by architecting the CMS infrastructure and global tagging system, and improving content discovery for readers.
- **Ensured a 200ms p99 response time for 100k concurrent users** by optimising CDN-level caching strategies for the GraphQL API, maintaining performance across a multi-region AWS infrastructure.
- **Integrated AI-powered article summaries** into the internal CMS for 380+ editorial staff by building a serverless integration with AWS Bedrock using Lambda functions.
- **Architected core features for the Homepage, Games, 'The World in Brief', and Navigation Configuration** on a GraphQL API serving 1.3M+ users.
- **Achieved a 5% reduction in monthly cloud spend** by auditing AWS accounts and implementing cost-optimisation strategies across the production environment.
- **Led the refactor of the automated E2E test suite using Cypress**, reducing test friction and improving CI/CD reliability.
- **Won the TEG Inclusivity Award three consecutive years**, recognised by colleagues for consistently fostering an inclusive and supportive team culture.
- **Executive Committee Member, Women in TEG:** Independently created a dedicated cancer support programme for female staff, providing work-related guidance and peer support.

IT Operations Analyst, <i>The Economist</i>	2022 – 2023 London, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered identity and access management (IAM) across Okta, Active Directory, and GSuite for 1,900+ staff across the EMEA region. • Delivered technical support for executive-level leadership, managing Google Cloud infrastructure and AV systems for business-critical operations. 	

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate, <i>Amazon Web Services</i>	In Progress
AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner  , <i>Amazon Web Services</i>	2023
Introduction to Web Development, <i>Code First Girls, sponsored by The Economist</i>	2021 London, UK

EDUCATION

MSc Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy, <i>University College London</i>	2025 – Present London, UK
BSc Biochemistry, <i>Queen Mary University of London</i>	2016 – 2021 London, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved Merit in Final Year Dissertation • Collaborated with KTH Institute of Royal Technology for QChallenge Stockholm - "How do smart cities ensure they are inclusive?" 	
Diploma in Biomedical Science, <i>Ngee Ann Polytechnic</i>	2012 – 2015 Singapore
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinction in Final Year Project; used proprietary software to design RNA primers from scratch for experimental use • Exchange Programme with Wuchang University of Technology (Wuhan, China) • Relevant modules: Biostatistics, Bioinformatics 	

LANGUAGES

English | Tamil | Malay | French | Mandarin | Arabic

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

Fellow (FRSA), <i>Royal Society of Arts</i>	2026
COVID-19 Resilience Medal, <i>Prime Minister's Office, Singapore</i>	2023
Recognition for tremendous contribution on the frontlines for the Nation during the pandemic	
Judges' Choice Award, <i>The Codette Project</i>	2019
Tech for Good Hackathon	