# Iñigo **Alonso**

4.16, 10 Crichton St Edinburgh, EH8 9AB, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 7770 136724 | alonsoapp@gmail.com | github.com/alonsoapp | Google Scholar | alonsoapp.me


NLP Research Scientist with 14 years of experience across academia and industry, specialising in multimodal document understanding, particularly methods for reasoning over the full information spectrum of real-world documents: text, tables, figures, and images. Table understanding has been my long-standing focus; my research now covers visually-represented language across documents as a whole.

## Experience

- **Post-Doctoral Research Associate -** *University of Edinburgh*
  *January 2025 - Present*
  Research on multimodal document understanding in Prof. Mirella Lapata's group, focusing on visually-represented language, table understanding, and reasoning over multimodal documents.
  - **TABLET (ICLR 2026):** Led the construction of a large-scale visual table understanding dataset (4M examples across 21 tasks, grounded in 2M unique tables), where fine-tuned Qwen2.5-VL-7B and Gemma 3-4B models outperform comparable baselines on 12/14 benchmarks.
  - **Currently:** Improving numerical reasoning of VLMs over long-context hybrid documents with multiple tables. Exploring agentic thinking and latent reasoning to push beyond chain-of-thought baselines.

- **Research Assistant -** *HiTZ Center, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU*
  *January 2023 - December 2024*
  Research across two projects: Luminous (EU project on multimodal dialogue for mixed reality headsets) and Antidote (retrieval-augmented medical question answering in LLMs).
  - **MATE (ACL 2025):** Designed a method to test whether VLMs can correlate entities across visual scenes and their textual representations, showing that state-of-the-art open-weight and frontier VLMs fall significantly short of human performance.
  - **MedExpQA (Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, 2024):** Co-developed the first multilingual medical QA benchmark with reference gold explanations from medical doctors, evaluating LLMs with and without Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) across four languages. Later adopted by Google as a training dataset for MedGemma.

- **Machine Learning Engineer -** *Sherpa.ai*
  *May 2018 - September 2021*
  Led a team developing T5-based data-to-text generation for a widely-used commercial smart assistant. Earlier, developed LSTM-based models for text summarisation and slot filling for the same product, deploying to production on AWS.

- **Research Intern and Research Assistant -** *Deustotech Computing*
  *February 2012 - January 2015; January 2017 - September 2017*
  Early-career research roles applying machine learning to data science problems, including anomaly detection in web logs and retail customer segmentation. Joined as an intern during my second year of undergrad and returned later as a research assistant.

## Publications

**TABLET: A Large-Scale Dataset for Robust Visual Table Understanding**
*ICLR 2026 -* ***Iñigo Alonso****, Imanol Miranda, Eneko Agirre, Mirella Lapata*

**MATE: A Cross-modal Entity Linking Benchmark for Vision Language Models**
*ACL 2025 (Findings) -* ***Iñigo Alonso****, Ander Salaberria, Gorka Azkune, Oier Lopez de Lacalle*

**PixT3: Pixel-based Table-To-Text Generation**
*ACL 2024 (Main) -* ***Iñigo Alonso****, Eneko Agirre, Mirella Lapata*

**MedExpQA: Multilingual Benchmarking of Large Language Models for Medical Question Answering**
*Artificial Intelligence in Medicine - **Iñigo Alonso**, Maite Oronoz, Rodrigo Agerri*

**Automatic Logical Forms improve fidelity in Table-to-Text generation**
*Expert Systems with Applications - **Iñigo Alonso**, Eneko Agirre*

## Education

**PhD in Language Analysis and Processing -** *University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU*
*Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain (2025)*
***Thesis:*** *Enhancing Table-to-Text Generation through Logical Forms and Multimodal Table Representations*
***Advisor:*** *Eneko Agirre (UPV/EHU)*
*Research visits at the University of Edinburgh (2023, 2024)*
***Distinction:*** Awarded with **Cum Laude** *(highest distinction)*

**MSc in Telecommunications Engineering -** *University of Deusto*
*Bilbao, Spain (2016)*
*Research visit at the Hochschule Campus Wien - University of Applied Sciences (2015 - 2016)*
***Thesis Grade:*** 9.5/10 *(distinction)*

**BSc in Telecommunication Technology Engineering -** *University of Deusto*
*Bilbao, Spain (2014)*
***Thesis Grade:*** 9.7/10 *(distinction)*

## Skills

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English (bilingual), Basque (native), German (B2)
**Programming Languages:** Python, Java, Bash, SQL
**Libraries:** PyTorch, Hugging Face (Transformers, Accelerate, Datasets, TRL), vLLM, OpenRLHF, DeepSpeed
**Technologies:** Kubernetes, Slurm, Docker, Git, AWS (ECS, S3), multi-node GPU training (A100/H200)

## Additional

**Awards:** Talentia Programme (2014) - selected for top academic performance in Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Deusto

**Teaching:** Lab Assistant, Foundations of Natural Language Processing (INFR10078), University of Edinburgh (Spring 2026). Teaching Assistant, Natural Language Processing, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU (2023/2024).

**Earlier Experience (2013–2018):** Prior to research, worked as a software engineer with a focus on mobile and full-stack development. Lead Android developer at Boletus Network S.L., freelance full-stack work for an ISP (Gestel Teleservice 2000, S.L.) and a B2B startup, with personal Android apps published on Google Play. Member of Google Developer Group; expert mentor at BIME Pro hackathon (2013).

**Service:** Reviewer for ACL / EACL / ECAI / ICLR.

**Open to relocation:** UK work authorisation via Global Talent Visa (no sponsorship required).