KHAIDAR BIKMAEV

RL ENVIRONMENTS
EVALS & POST-TRAINING
RESEARCH AUTOMATION
EMAIL GITHUB LINKEDIN

RL Environment Engineer

Anthropic, contract via Preference Model
December 2025 — July 2026

Built RL environments and 600+ MLE tasks for Anthropic through Preference Model. Focused on RSI environments, multi-agent systems, and automation of post-training. Built internal data/evals/models registry and library that together enabled RLEEs to stop wasting their time on integration plumbing and focus on task production only. Created and polished RL environment proxy that ensures that during training, when a customer supplies their model with API keys compatible with /v1/messages/, they have cost controls that are resistant to reward hacking by Fable-tier models.

ML Research Engineer, LLM Biosecurity

RAND Corporation, contract via Palisade Research
August 2024 — December 2024

Fine-tuned frontier LLMs for RAND's biosecurity research as a Palisade Research partner, credited in RAND report RRA3797-1. Conducted large-scale training of Llama 3.1 405B models. Built MLOps research pipeline that automated guardrail removal, capabilities elicitation through SFT on virology and wet lab protocol data, with downstream safety evaluations characterizing the worst-case risk a determined bad actor can pose.

Staff Machine Learning Engineer

bikmaev.com, Independent Contractor
December 2023 — Present

DeFi Trading Firm

Rewrote their trading bot PoC from Python into optimized concurrent Rust. Replaced dumb once-a-minute polling of CoinGecko API with proper realtime Helius WebSocket feeds and native Solana contract integration through reverse-engineered IDLs. Created infrastructure automation they lacked entirely and optimized LightGBM inference to be approximately instant.

Healthcare ML Platform

Designed BigQuery schema migrations and ETL pipelines processing millions of rows of sensitive data across 300K+ patients. Built Claude-powered documentation system that enabled data engineers to move faster since internal data surface was too large to fit in one head.

Fitness Startup

Fixed broken personalized workout generation service just enough that the client could roll it out across all customers without any problems. Identified a months-long gap between the system represented to leadership and the expert-system implementation actually delivered. Delivered a reimplementation roadmap outlining the architecture and R&D steps toward genuinely ML-powered personalization.

Senior Machine Learning Engineer

Action Digital
May 2022 — April 2024

Customer acquisition at this firm worked through call centers. When I joined, they had an MVP of an automated sales call grading system. Stabilized and scaled this system across all phone traffic before my departure, processing 30K+ calls daily. It generated $40M+ in incremental revenue post-rollout. Built internal Svelte/TypeScript portal enabling the sales team to stop bothering me and have self-serve analytics. ML pipelines were deployed manually. I automated deployment with Kubernetes.

Machine Learning Engineer

Sberbank
May 2021 — May 2022

Worked on real-time ML personalization platform serving 30M+ DAU across mobile, push, and email. Implemented incremental training of contextual bandits in Scala and Flink. Developed daily PySpark pipeline that processed a huge table of 70M+ customers and 50K features each into embeddings fed into the platform. Our team's work led to a 6% CTR uplift across products during the bank's anniversary campaign, when the platform was rolled out across the ecosystem. Reduced CI runtime from 1 hour to 10 minutes.

Machine Learning Engineer

MIPT Machine Intelligence Laboratory
Jan 2021 — Jan 2022

Built NLP system that personalized student learning paths given their knowledge gaps. Designed Bayesian ML system that improved win rates of government-tender bids for a customer.

Machine Learning Engineer

Neurocore
Aug 2020 — Dec 2020

Built real-time bus driver monitoring system with computer vision detection of driver distraction and drowsiness. Optimized model accuracy with active learning pipeline. Deployed on NVIDIA Jetson edge compute.

Biotechnology Undergrad

Russian Technological University
Sep 2016 — Jan 2020

Dropped out to become ML engineer.