# SKANDER HELALI

**Cybersecurity Engineer | OT/ICS Security, Embedded & IoT Systems**

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Authorized to work in Italy (Italian study residence permit, convertible to a work permit)

## SUMMARY

Cybersecurity engineer with an electrical engineering background, completing an M.Sc. in Computer Security (University of Padova, Dec 2026). Hands-on OT/ICS security on DeltaV DCS/SIS systems in oil & gas and secure OTA firmware design for embedded IoT devices.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Electrical Engineering Expert, Reviewer (Contract)** Sep 2026 – Present

*Mercor* *Remote*

- Author complex electrical engineering problems with worked solutions to train and evaluate AI models (Writer, Sep–Oct 2026).
- Review model reasoning and other experts' work for technical accuracy (Reviewer, Nov 2026 – present).

**Firmware & Cloud R&D Engineer Intern** Jan 2025 – Apr 2025

*M31 S.r.l.* *Padova, Italy*

- Benchmarked IoT OTA update frameworks (Mender, RAUC, SWUpdate) for security, efficiency and scalability.
- Designed and prototyped a secure firmware update system with integrity verification and rollback (480-hour internship).

**OT Cybersecurity Engineer (Apprentice)** Mar 2021 – Feb 2022

*Emerson Process Management (EMEA)* *Doha, Qatar*

- OT/ICS security for two Qatar Petroleum oil & gas projects: DeltaV DCS/SIS validation and compliance.
- Configured Modbus firewalls and Cisco switches; tested serial and Foundation Fieldbus links.
- Hardened endpoints: McAfee ePO, whitelisting, patching, backups, USB blocking, user policies.

**Electrical Engineer (Apprentice)** Sep 2020 – Feb 2021

*Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)* *Mesaieed, Qatar*

- Maintained and commissioned Siemens/Schneider DCS/PLC controls, motors and transformers in MV/LV substations.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** Jan 2018 – May 2020

*Texas A&M University* *Doha, Qatar*

- Built a wearable tremor sensor and Android Wear app to detect hypoglycemia; ML feature extraction in MATLAB.
- Authored "Influence of Fatigue on Physiological Tremor" (Nano Medicine 2020, submitted).

## EDUCATION

**M.Sc. in Computer Security (LM-66)** Expected Dec 2026

*University of Padova, Italy*

- Expected mark: 100/110; Invest Your Talent in Italy scholarship (2024)

**B.S. in Electrical Engineering** May 2020

*Texas A&M University*

- Thesis: GlycoTrem, hypoglycemia and fatigue tremor detection using wearables
- GPA: 3.30/4.00; Dean's Honor List (Spring 2020); Distinguished Student Award (Fall 2016, 2017)

## SKILLS

**Cybersecurity:** OT/ICS security, DeltaV DCS/SIS, network security, firewalls (Nozomi, Modbus), SIEM, McAfee ePO, whitelisting, patch management, backup & recovery, cryptography, Wireshark

**Embedded & Systems:** Linux, embedded Linux (Yocto, Buildroot), IoT, OTA updates (Mender, RAUC, SWUpdate), Docker, Nginx, Cisco

**Programming & Industrial:** Python, MATLAB, C, Java, PHP, Go; DCS/PLC (Siemens, Schneider), Modbus, Foundation Fieldbus, SAP

**Languages:** Arabic (native), English (C2, TOEFL iBT 114/120), French (B1–C2), Italian (A2)