

Senior Data Scientist

Avanti Finance Group is a privately owned specialist lender operating across New Zealand and Australia. We're on a growth mission to lead and inspire our industry through innovation and the development of exceptional financial services, while fostering a motivated and engaged workplace culture centred around personal growth and high performance.

Reporting to the Data & Analytics Lead, the Data Scientist plays a critical role in unlocking value from Avanti's data. You'll deliver smart, impactful analytics by scoping, designing, prototyping, and deploying data products using advanced statistical methods and cutting-edge algorithms. You're here to provide insight, not just information and to expand what's possible and guide stakeholders toward solutions that deliver greater value than originally envisioned.

Working in cross-functional teams with Data Engineers, Analysts and Governance specialists, you'll lead initiatives through experimentation and iteration that drive real business outcomes across pricing, risk, profitability, and customer insights. You'll drive each initiative, introducing stakeholders to fresh, forward-thinking approaches that stretch beyond the original brief. From first engagement to final delivery, you'll shape the methodology, champion innovation, and consistently raise the bar.

IN THIS ROLE, YOU WILL:

Do-the-Doing

- > Present insights and findings clearly to stakeholders across all levels of the business, translating complex analysis into actionable recommendations
- > Act as a trusted advisor and partner in innovative problem-solving for pricing, risk, profitability, customer analytics, and strategic initiatives
- > Facilitate stakeholder discovery and product design workshops to refine requirements, challenge assumptions, and shape solutions
- > Partner with senior stakeholders to develop and prioritize data science roadmaps aligned to business strategy
- > Lead the development and implementation of prescriptive and predictive models using advanced statistical and machine learning techniques
- > Work closely with Engineers and Developers to scope, design, prototype, and deploy data science solutions from initial engagement through to production (MLOps).
- > Research, explore, and introduce cutting-edge data science methodologies, algorithms, and tools to continuously improve capabilities
- > Champion modern analytical approaches, confidently advocating for new methodologies that deliver superior outcomes over legacy methods
- > Develop and implement an AI User policy advocating and promoting the ethical use of Generative and Agentic AI.
- > Mentor team members/stakeholders and run workshops on data science concepts, best practices, and innovative approaches to analytics

Always Ensure Integrity, Risk and Compliance.

- > Apply a risk and compliance lens, ensure legal adherence, and manage all day-to-day risks through the appropriate channels.
- > Operate with integrity by upholding high standards in compliance and risk management through adherence to the three lines of defence model.

Living Our Values: Relentlessly Helpful, Do What's Right, People First.

- > Be a team player and follow your manager's reasonable instructions, performing additional duties as needed.

- > Bring your whole self every day, to proactively promote a wellness, inclusive, health and safety conscious culture at Avanti.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

- > Advanced degree in Statistics, Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, or related field
- > 5 years of practical experience in Data Science and/or AI Engineering, including Predictive AI (supervised and unsupervised modelling), Generative AI (Prompt, Fine-tuning and RAG processes), Agentic AI concepts and data mining
- > A strong understanding of productionised MLOps environments ensuring robust integrated automated solutions
- > Strong proficiency in Python, R, and SQL with demonstrated ability to develop production-ready data science solutions
- > Experience in the use of back-end or front-end ML/AI applications e.g. Snowflake AI
- > Experience with data visualization tools (Power BI, Tableau, or similar) and translating complex models into clear visual insights
- > Proven track record developing data products within agile environments and collaborating with cross-functional teams
- > Working knowledge of cloud-based data platforms (AWS, Azure, Snowflake) and modern data architectures
- > Financial services or lending experience would be valued but is not essential.

OPERATIONAL DETAIL:

Location	Newmarket (moving to Wynyard Quarter in early 2026)
Department	Data Analytics
Reporting to	Data & Analytics Lead
Direct reports	No direct reports
Internal relationships	...
External relationships	