

Nikhita Joshi

PhD Candidate | HCI Researcher
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Computer Science (HCI)

University of Waterloo; Waterloo ON

January 2020 - present

- Studying human-computer interaction (HCI), working with Daniel Vogel (**GPA = 96%**).
- Researching interactions in spatial augmented reality (SAR) and intentional interface constraints.

Master of Mathematics (MMath), Computer Science (HCI)

University of Waterloo; Waterloo ON

September 2017 - December 2019

- Thesis-based program in HCI, working with Daniel Vogel (**GPA = 97%**).
- Researched touch input along the edge of the table ([C1, T1]).
- Two first-author conference papers ([C1, C2]) were accepted for publication.

Bachelor of Science (BSc), Computer Science, Commerce Minor

Mount Allison University; Sackville NB

September 2014 - May 2017

- Finished degree one year early using International Baccalaureate (IB) credits.
- Graduated with distinction, Dean's List throughout (**GPA = 93%**).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist Intern

Meta/Facebook - Reality Labs Research; Toronto ON

August - December 2022 (FT); January - April 2023 (PT)

- Led a research project that was submitted as a paper to a top-tier HCI conference, with Michael Glueck, Christopher Collins, and Parastoo Abtahi.

Research Scientist Intern

Microsoft Research - EPIC Research Group; Redmond WA (Remote)

May - July 2022

- Led a research project that will be submitted as a paper to a top-tier HCI conference, with Nathalie Riche.

Research Scientist Intern

Autodesk - UI Research Team; Toronto ON

May - September 2019

- Led an HCI research project with the User Interface Research Team.
- Explored the idea of time-bounded, 1-on-1 help sessions with Fraser Anderson and Justin Matejka.
- This internship resulted in a 10-page, first author conference publication [C2].

Software Developer Intern

North Inc. - Prototyping Team (acquired by Google); Kitchener ON

January - April 2019

- Designed and developed prototype applications for Focals smart glasses.
- Designed and conducted technical prototype evaluations and user studies.

Software Developer Intern

J. D. Irving, Ltd. - Information Technology Department; Saint John NB

May - August 2017

- Conducted cost-benefit analysis of automation testing software, recommending savings > \$30,000.
- Initiated the use of CI/CD to streamline the team's development process.

Co-Founder and Vice President - Legal

Bagtown Brewing Company; Sackville NB

September 2016 - April 2017

- Created, built, and launched a business into the market while managing a team of 2 employees.
- Obtained federal, provincial, and distributor brewing licenses and company insurance.

Business Analyst Intern*J. D. Irving, Ltd. - Information Technology Department; Saint John NB**May - August 2015*

- Created interactive, visual dashboards using Tableau.
- Managed the company's risk register to track and monitor security threats and mitigation attempts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teacher's Assistant/Instructional Apprentice (TA/IA)*University of Waterloo; Waterloo ON & Mount Allison University; Sackville NB**September 2017 - present*

- Mentored software engineering students working on their final year capstone projects.
- Led computer labs as a lab instructor for an introductory computer science course.
- Developed and graded assignments and managed other TAs.

Tutor*Meighen Center - Mount Allison University; Sackville NB**October 2015 - December 2016*

- Mentored students 1-on-1 taking an introductory computer science course.
- Created sample practice questions and helped them prepare for upcoming midterms and finals.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Note about conference papers: In Human-Computer Interaction, conference proceedings are the preferred publication venue since they are timelier and typically have the greatest impact. Top-tier conferences are very selective with rigorous multi-stage reviews of full manuscripts creating high-quality, fully archival, proceedings.

Note about venues: CHI (ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems) and UIST (the ACM symposium on User Interface Software and Technology) are both recognized as top tier HCI conferences (Google Scholar ranks them as #1 and #3). The average acceptance rate for CHI is 23% and UIST is 21%.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [C6] Daekun Kim, **Nikhita Joshi**, Daniel Vogel. 2023. *Perspective and Geometry Approaches to Mouse Cursor Control in Spatial Augmented Reality*. In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23) | ☆ **best paper honourable mention award**
- [C5] **Nikhita Joshi**, Antony Albert Raj Irudayaraj, Jeremy Hartmann, Daniel Vogel. 2022. *An Instrumented Office Chair with a Steerable Projector for Personal Spatial Augmented Reality*. In Proceedings of the 2022 ACM Symposium on Spatial User Interaction (SUI'22) | ☆ **best paper award**
- [C4] **Nikhita Joshi**^{*}, Matthew Lakier^{*}, Daniel Vogel, Jian Zhao. 2022. *A Design Framework for Contextual and Embedded Information Visualizations in Spatial Augmented Reality*. In Proceedings of Graphics Interface 2022 (GI '22) | ✦ equal contribution
- [C3] Antony Albert Raj Irudayaraj, Rishav Agarwal, **Nikhita Joshi**, Aakar Gupta, Omid Abari, Daniel Vogel. 2021. *PocketView: Through-Fabric Information Displays*. In Proceedings of the 2021 ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '21)
- [C2] **Nikhita Joshi**, Justin Matejka, Fraser Anderson, Tovi Grossman, and George Fitzmaurice. 2020. *MicroMentor: Peer-to-Peer Software Help Sessions in Three Minutes or Less*. In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20)
- [C1] **Nikhita Joshi** and Daniel Vogel. 2019. *An Evaluation of Touch Input at the Edge of a Table*. In Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '19)

PATENTS

- [P1] **Nikhita Joshi**, Justin Matejka, Fraser Anderson, Tovi Grossman, and George Fitzmaurice. *Computer-Based Techniques for Obtaining Personalized Assistance with Software Applications (63/000,684)*. Submitted April 2021 (Pending)

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

[T1] **Nikhita Joshi**. 2019. *Evaluating the Speed and Accuracy of Touch at the Edge of a Table*. UWSpace.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2023	CHI 2023 Best Paper Honourable Mention Award (re: SAR Cursor [C6]) Awarded to the top 5% of papers of the CHI conference
2023 - 2025	David R. Cheriton Graduate Scholarship (institutional) — \$10,000 per year Awarded to top PhD students based on academic excellence and research potential.
2022	SUI 2022 Best Paper Award (re: SAR Chair [C3]) Awarded to the top paper of the SUI conference
2020 - 2023	Alexander Graham Bell Graduate Scholarship (NSERC CGS-D) (national) — \$35,000 per year Awarded to top PhD students based on academic merit, research potential, and leadership (top 17%).
2020	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) (provincial, declined for NSERC CGS-D) — \$15,000 Awarded to top graduate students based on academic merit, research potential, and leadership.
2020 - 2023	UW President's Scholarship (institutional) — \$10,000 per year Awarded to top graduate students who hold major federal or provincial awards (e.g. NSERC).
2020 - 2022	David R. Cheriton Graduate Scholarship (institutional) — \$10,000 per year Awarded to top PhD students based on academic excellence and research potential.
2020 - 2024	Math Domestic Scholarship (institutional, declined for NSERC CGS-D) — \$6,000 per year Awarded to incoming Canadian graduate students.
2020	Provost Doctoral Entrance Award for Women (institutional) — \$5,000 Awarded to top female PhD students based on academic excellence.
2019	Graduate Student Research Travel Assistantship (institutional) — \$500 Awarded to support research-related travel.
2018, 2019	Barbara Roth-Hayes Scholarship (institutional) — \$5,000, \$2,000 Awarded to top female graduate students based on academic excellence.
2017 - 2019	Math Domestic Graduate Scholarship (institutional) — \$5,000 per year Awarded to incoming Canadian graduate students.
2017 - 2018	UW Provost Scholarship (institutional) — \$15,000 Awarded to top graduate students based on academic excellence.
2014 - 2017	Dean's List (institutional) Recognition given to full-time students who have maintained a first-class average ($\geq 3.7/4.3$).
2014 - 2017	Garnet Scholarship (institutional) — \$12,000 over 4 years Awarded to undergraduate students based on academic excellence.

SERVICE

ACADEMIC

Program Committee Member

- Served as a program committee member for GI 2022.

February 2022

Peer Reviewer

- Reviewed papers for UIST and CHI Late-Breaking Work

2020 - present

Student Volunteer

- Supported various conference activities for CHI and UIST.
- Helped organize the program committee for UIST 2023

2019, 2021, 2023

WatCHI Conference Organizing Chair

University of Waterloo; Waterloo ON

- Organized a virtual conference for the HCI groups at the university (in response to COVID-19).

2020

COMMUNITY**Canada HCI Organizer and Moderator***June 2020 - present*

- Created and managed a Slack community (Canada HCI) for HCI researchers across Canada.

Math/CS Society Executive*Mount Allison University; Sackville NB**2015 - 2017*

- Organized social events for math and computer science students.

Dance Teacher*Mount Allison University; Sackville NB**2015 - 2017*

- Choreographed 2 routines and ran practices every week.

MENTORING

January 2022 - April 2023

Daekun Kim - Undergraduate Research Assistant
University of Waterloo ([C6])

January - April 2019

Amber Ma - Undergraduate Research Assistant
University of Waterloo**PRESS**

Note: Only a sample of press is listed below.re: **SAR Chair** [C5]

- Interviews on the main UWaterloo and School of Computer Science's websites
- Article featured on ACM's TechNews

*March 2023**March 2023*re: **PocketView** [C3]

- Interviews on the main UWaterloo and School of Computer Science's websites
- Articles featured in ACM's TechNews, AAAS' EurekAlert!, News Atlas, The Engineer, Fuentitech, Hackster.io, Technology Org, Arduino, and NewsBreak

*October 2021**October 2021*