

# Iñigo Parra

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## Personal Profile

Highly motivated individual with excellent social and leadership skills and a passion for technology. Trilingual speaker and adept at communicating with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Self-taught coder with a strong foundation in Python. A hard-working individual with linguistics expertise that provides a unique perspective on the development of natural language processing tools. Always eager to learn and grow, committed to staying up-to-date with the latest developments in linguistics and technology.

## Education

### University of Deusto

BA in Modern Languages (English Studies focus)

Bilbao, Spain

Sept 2016 - May 2022

- **Dissertation:** *Language and Opinion Online: Socio-political Beliefs on Covid-19*
- **Courses:** Language Applications, Linguistics, English Grammar, Contrastive Grammar, Second Language Acquisition

### The University of Alabama

MA Romance Languages: Spanish Linguistics

Tuscaloosa, US

August 2022 - Current

- **Courses:** Computational Research Methods, Methods in Bilingualism, Spanish Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology

### The University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) – IXA Group

Seminar On Introduction To Language Technology Applications

Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

July 2023

- **Lab work:** Static Word Embeddings, Sentiment Analysis, NER, Multilingual transfer learning, QA systems

## Experience

### The University of Alabama

Teaching Assistant

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Sept 2022 - Current

- Instructor of Spanish at levels 101 and 102
- Technical Skills: Google Applications, Blackboard, Linguistic skills, Second Language Acquisition, Teaching
- Soft Skills: Teamwork, Time Management, Communication, Presentation skills, Interpersonal skills, Leadership

### LingUA Lab

Research Assistant

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Sept 2022 - Current

- Collect data, run statistics, and report results
- Technical Skills: R, Python, Microsoft Excel, statistics
- Soft Skills: Teamwork, Presentation skills, Leadership

### Cohere for AI: AYA

Language Ambassador (Basque) and Contributor

Online

May 2023 - Current

- Evaluate language model's performance in Basque and Spanish and improve model through reinforcement learning from human feedback
- Technical Skills: Zoom, Transformers, Basque Grammar
- Soft Skills: Teamwork, Presentation skills, Leadership

## Conferences

### UALC

The University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Feb 2023

- *Computational Linguistics and AI: Do Chatbots Understand Grammar?*

### Digital Humanities Against Dark Times

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, Tennessee

Apr 2023

- *The Dark Side of AI: Identifying Extremism and Battling Political Polarization*

## Current Research

Monitoring Second Language Learning with PageRank-Based Student Performance Analysis (submitted)

2023

- Implement network analysis to record student performance. Foresee its implications in the future of education.
- Technical Skills: Social Network Analysis, Language Acquisition Theory, SLA, Python.

- Eu2Vec: LSTM Pretrained Embedding for Basque Sentiment Analysis** 2023
- Creation of a pre-trained Basque embedding for sentiment analysis purposes
  - Technical Skills: Python, Tensorflow, CSV, Scikit-Learn, Linguistics, Distributional Semantics
- Do You Speak Basquenglish? Assessing Low-resource Multilingual Proficiency of Pretrained Language Models (submitted)** 2023
- Analysis and evaluation of cross-lingual understanding and code-switching capabilities of large language models (LLMs)
  - Technical Skills: Python, Tensorflow, CSV, Scikit-Learn, Basque, bilingualism
- The Visibility Project** 2023
- A research tool to revise NLP attention on low-resource languages
  - Charge: Founder and main developer

## University Projects

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### International Tandem Program

University of Deusto

*Bilbao, Spain*

*December 2021 - May 2022*

- Spanish support to international students.
- Teach the language and cultural aspects.

### Spanish Club

The University of Alabama

*Tuscaloosa, US*

*Sep 2022 - Jan 2023*

- Helped in the development of the Spanish Club.
- Volunteered at several tasks, leading group conversations and activities in Spanish.

## Achievements

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|------|--|-------------------|
| 2020 | <b>89/100</b> , Undergraduate Dissertation                         | <i>Bilbao</i>     |
| 2022 | <b>4.0 GPA</b> , MA Romance Languages: Spanish Linguistics         | <i>Tuscaloosa</i> |
| 2023 | <b>Top Contributor to the Basque Language</b> , Cohere for AI: AYA | <i>Online</i>     |

## Skills

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>Coding</b>        | Python (Pandas, NumPy, Tensorflow, Scikit-learn, SpaCy, NLTK, among others), R (ggplot2).  |
| <b>Research</b>      | Gephi, Praat, $\text{\LaTeX}$ (Overleaf), Tableau, Microsoft Office, Git.                  |
| <b>Soft Skills</b>   | Leadership, Creativity, Time Management, Teamwork, Problem-solving, Engaging Presentation. |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b> | Logic Pro X, Ableton, Photoshop, After Effects, Shell (Bash/Zsh).                          |

## Interests

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>Research</b> | Low-resource languages, AI explainability, distributional semantics, pragmatics, syntax, language acquisition, AI alignment |
| <b>Others</b>   | Making music, writing, cooking, photography, coding, and reading.   |

## Languages

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|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Spanish</b> | Native speaker    |
| <b>Basque</b>  | Native speaker    |
| <b>English</b> | Fluent            |
| <b>German</b>  | Reading knowledge |
| <b>French</b>  | Reading knowledge |