

Brandon Startz

Portfolio: <https://thereverseside.github.io/>

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EDUCATION

Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, OK, USA

**Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Bachelor of Arts in Spanish
Minor in Cognitive Science**

Aug. 2012 - May 2018

Study abroad program – University of Helsinki, Finland

Bachelors and Masters courses

Aug. 2017 - May 2018

Notable courses: Philosophy of AI, Games and History: Playing with Time and Culture, Interactive Data Visualisation, Finnish language, HCI

International TEFL Academy – Chicago, Illinois, USA

200-hour Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) & Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Jan. 2017 - May 2017

20 hours of practicum, optional 20 hr Teaching English to Children and optional 20hr Teaching Business English modules completed

WORK EXPERIENCE

Ubiquitous Interaction Group, Department of Computer Science, Helsinki, Finland

Research Assistant: Jan. 2018 – Present

- Part of interdisciplinary team with consultation company Futurice, designing and developing applications and UI informed by conducted user-research
- Aided inter-European research project regarding information organization design, gamification of tasks, and digital avatar/companion design research
- **Core skills:** User research, programming, scientific writing, UCD, prototyping

Freelance English Teacher

Teacher of English: May 2017 – Present

- Teaching clients principally from Spain and Finland, ranging from 5 years of age and up
- **Core skills:** Communication, teaching development, multiculturalism, presentation skills

SKILLS

Continued education:

32 MOOCS in Game Development, Graphic Design, coding and related topics. Full list in portfolio.

Coding: Mostly C# and Java.

Basic use of CSS, Python, HTML, XML

Game Engines: Mostly Unity, minor use of Godot

Design programs: Adobe Photoshop, XD, Illustrator, Sketch, Android Studio

GRE (Graduate Record Exam):

Analytical writing: 98th percentile, Verbal: 160/170, Quant: 148/170

AWARDS - POSITIONS OF TRUST

Humphreys international student scholarship: \$5000

Based on academic performance

Teaching assistant: HCI Masters course

President's honor roll (4.0 GPA/Semester) awarded 3 times

Dean's honor roll (3.5+ GPA/Semester) awarded 4 times

Oklahoma State University LASSO Tutoring service

Spanish, psychology and philosophy tutor: Aug. 2016 – May 2017

- Instructing university students while addressing specific issues, utilizing psychology and other learning methods to optimize studies
- **Core skills:** Communication, teaching development, public speaking

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ubiquitous Interaction Group, Helsinki Institute of Information Technology, Helsinki, Finland

Research Assistant under Prof. Giulio Jacucci: Jan. 2018 – Present

Aalto University academic visitor research assistant

Research topics: Informing design choices via user research and user-centred design. Gamified structure of tasks. Design of chatbot-like companion to deliver computerized Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Social Psychology Self-Lab, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Research Assistant under Prof. Ed Burkley: Jan. 2017 – May 2017

Research topics: Sense of self: how and why we identify and relate to ourselves and others.

Cognitive Science Laboratory, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Research Assistant under Prof. Shelia Kennison: Jan. 2016 – May 2017

Research topics: Psychology of learning, technology and digital media's effect on user affect such as attentional capacity.

Laboratory of Emotion and Psychophysiology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Research Assistant under Prof. DeMond Grant: Aug. 2013 – May 2014

Research topics: Research factors in Cognitive Psychology contributing towards anxiety and depressive disorders via various physiological measures, such as EEG brain activity.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Hatvany, T., Startz, B., Blodgett, J., & Burkley, E. (2017). Implicit goal fusion: Predicating goal related behaviors beyond self-concordance. Presented as a poster at the Oklahoma Psychological Society (OPS). Edmond, OK. April 10, 2017.

LANGUAGES

English – Mother tongue

Spanish – Advanced

Finnish – Basic

Catalan/Valenciano – Basic

GROUP AFFILIATIONS

Intelligenza: University of Helsinki Cognitive Science student group

Gamers of OSU

Sigma Delta Chi: American honor society for Spanish

Psi Chi: International Psychology honors society

Spanish club

Psychology club