

Florin Gheorghiu

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London, UK

Psychology final year student with background in research and international development. Exploring innovative media, science communication and the neurobiology of perception. Seeking projects outside traditional academic fields.

EDUCATION

University College London – MSci Psychology (2014-2018) – on track for 1.1

- Developing VR environments for experiments in spatial cognition.
- Participated as a critic at architectural critiques focused on VR at Bartlett's Design for Performance and Design Master's.
- Used eye-tracking to explore aspects of storytelling through the independent research project: "How can eye-gaze influence one's perception of stories? An eye-tracking study" – **Advisor:** Dr Daniel C. Richardson
- Currently using machine learning to decode fMRI data of people experiencing stories – **Advisor:** Dr Jeremy I Skipper

Bede's Senior School – Sixth Form (2012-2014) - Mathematics (A*) Further Mathematics (A) German (A) Psychology (A)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & PROJECTS

UCL iGEM 2017 – Team member (June 2017 – September 2017) – Gold Medal

- Learnt and applied standard molecular biology techniques in genetically modifying bacterial cells.
- Co-lead one of the project's modules, focusing on using optogenetics to design a 3D printing system out of bacterial cells, similar to stereolithography.
- Developed and prototyped gamification ideas of biological concepts, displayed at the London Science Museum.
- Designed and programmed the UI & UX of the team's website - <http://2017.igem.org/Team:UCL>

Harvard Laboratory for Developmental Studies – Research Assistant (June 2016 – August 2016)

- Contributed to the design, data collection and analysis of a project looking at the development of causal perception in 4 and 7-month old infants.
- Engaged in communicating the lab's research with a public audience at recruitment fairs and public events.
- Developed psychophysics experiments in Python and contributed to the development of a research software (PyHab) used in the habituation paradigm.

Education Partnerships Africa - Information Management Workstream Lead (September 2015 – September 2017)

- Maintained and created content (articles, starter packs, digital material) for 2 internal websites and 1 public website for the charity. (www.epafrica.org.uk)
- Practiced UX Design for the redevelopment of the 2 internal websites and organized a team to develop a communications strategy for alumni.
- Effectively boosted recruitment numbers and social media presence by 50% for the charity through campaigns on social media, talks with relevant speakers and public engagement.

Education Partnerships Africa – Project Worker (June 2015 – September 2015)

Invested a fundraised budget of £1800 over 10 weeks in partnership with a secondary school from Kenya to improve the quality of education. Projects involved sustainably implementing health schemes and technology.

- Planned the investment of £1800 into simultaneous projects, evaluated risks and established sustainability measures for behaviour change initiatives.
- Demonstrated an effective evaluation framework by identifying issues through observation, interviews and data analysis (e.g. financial records, grades, questionnaires, medical records).
- Flexibly adapted to a range of stakeholders (e.g. school staff, students, contractors) within projects in different areas of development (e.g. health, learning, school administration, student welfare).

London Metropolitan University – Research assistant (June 2015 – September 2015)

Involved in a research project led by Dr. Shashika Vethanayagam and Dr. Yarrow Dunham from Yale University. Explored the development of British children's attitudes towards religion and cultural class.

- Contributed to recruitment, data collection and analysis, developed code books for questionnaires and reviewed scientific literature.

EMPLOYMENT

Private Personal Tutor – (June 2015 – present)

- As a part-time job, tutored 12 students in Romanian, German and Mathematics with levels ranging from beginners to advanced.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

McClelland, A., Evans, J., Potts, R., Cai, A., **Gheorghiu, F.**, Kavanagh, D., & Vikhanova, A. (2017, June). *Students as agents of change: Creating more student-focused marking criteria*. Paper presented at the conference on Connecting Higher Education: International perspectives on research-based education, London, UK.

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- **R** (multivariate statistics), **Python** (fMRI data analysis, TensorFlow and web scraping), **Processing** (worked on 2 games), **Arduino** (worked on 3 game installations), **HTML**, **CSS** & **JavaScript** (2 completed websites, web development and local servers)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gold Medal at the iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machines competition) Giant Jamboree 2017.
- Won the *Judge's Choice Award* in the London Entrepreneurs Challenge First Stage 2014 that involved developing and pitching a business idea with a team. We pitched an Airbnb-like storage platform for students in London.
- Obtained a full [HMC scholarship](#) to study A-Levels in an independent school in England, awarded to aspiring individuals from Eastern Europe.