

IRIS GAU

(805) 895 - 3373 · iris.gau219@gmail.com

With a foundation in cognitive and computer science, I am passionate about the intersection of humans and technology, driving my transition into UX research. I am detail-oriented, driven, and a quick learner with experience in creating user-centric solutions. I am excited to leverage my analytical, collaborative, and empathetic skills to enhance user experiences.

EXPERIENCE

- Aug. 2019 – Sep. 2023 **Software Engineer** · San Francisco, CA
Square
- Led cross-functional projects across engineering, product, design, and data teams, building out the Square Marketing product
 - Drove the launch of Text Message Marketing, including the beta release of image sharing, synthesizing user feedback to guide product iterations
- Jan. 2019 – Mar. 2019 **Research Assistant** · Houston, TX
Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery
- Developed Python scripts to automate analysis of stroke patient speech data, reducing data processing time from hours to seconds
- June 2018 – Aug. 2018 **Software Engineer Intern** · San Francisco, CA
Square
- Implemented feature requests, designs, and security enhancements for the web payments product
 - Designed and built 1st place hack week project for customized legal contracts to protect merchants from chargebacks
- Sep. 2016 – Dec. 2017 **Team Lead & Studio Member** · Rice University · Houston, TX
Design for America
- Applied human-centered design to prototype a lightweight backpack that enhances classroom organization and student mobility
 - Conducted user interviews and usability tests to inform design decisions
- May 2016 – Aug. 2016 **Software Developer Intern** · Warsaw, Poland
Katalyst Education
- Implemented the internationalization of an open textbook platform for publishing free, high-quality educational materials

EDUCATION

Rice University · Houston, TX
B.A. Computer Science, Cognitive Science (Psychology Concentration)
GPA: 3.94/4.00, *summa cum laude*

AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

- April 2024 Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language: Level 3 Listening and Reading
- October 2023 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship
9 months of Mandarin study sponsored by the Ministry of Education, ROC

SKILLS

Strengths: Cross-functional Collaboration, Attention to Detail, Empathy, Communication
Skills: User-Centered Design, Data Analysis, Web Accessibility, Web Development
Tools: Figma, Confluence, JIRA, Slack, Trello, Miro, Google Analytics