Laura **Salas**

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Education

B.Sc. Computer Science | University of Montreal   **Sep. 2019-May 2023**

2020 University of Montreal Scholarship Recipient | 2019 Ada Lovelace Scholarship Recipient

Experience

Meta Platforms Inc.   **Fremont, California**

Software Engineer Intern - Full-stack development   **May 2022 - Aug. 2022**

- Developed an **extendable back-end API in Hack (PHP)** that parsed **CMS** syntax for creating email components, for use by over 20+ product teams
- Used different **software design patterns** to prioritize easy developer integration, which in turn reduced email onboarding development time and **saved the company hundreds of engineering hours**
- Utilized **XHP** and **CSS** to create render logic for said email UI components, ensuring Product Designers' specs were followed and that rendering worked over different email clients.
- **Went beyond internship scope** by initiating discussions with Designers and contributing multiple components to our design library
- **Received exceptional feedback** from managers, peers, and teammates for engineering quality, leadership, and communication skills.

Facebook Inc.   **Fremont, California**

Software Engineer Intern - Full-stack development   **May 2021 - Aug 2021**

- **Developed React JS components** to optimize **front-end** interactivity and enhance user productivity
- **Utilized Hack (PHP)** to write the **back-end** of said components, ensuring they complemented existing ones
- Implemented **GraphQL** mutations to manage calls between front-end and back-end, and designed **SQL database** entities to persist and update data
- Integrated a third-party **REST API** to personalize query results for users and ensured secure data transmission through **OAuth authentication**
- Presented internship project to large audiences, receiving **exceptional feedback from organization VPs**

Collineo Inc.   **Montreal, Quebec**

Software Engineer Intern - C++ Desktop Development   **Jul. 2020 - May 2021**

- Developed high-performance **C++ 15/QT5** software components for desktop applications that helped interactively visualize and analyze data extracted from robotic inspection systems.
- Worked on modernising part of the codebase (in **C** and **C++**) that handled **low-level communication** with robots. Successfully improved performance and set groundwork to make it compatible with new analysis tools, enabling the company to take on a new client.

Applied Research in Linguistics Informatics Lab @ UMontreal | Summer Research Intern   **Montreal, Quebec**

- Leveraged **Python's natural language processing (NLP) libraries (spaCy, NLTK)** to automatically answer Stanford's   **Jun. 2019 - Jul. 2019**
100,000 question-and-answer couplets (SQUAD). Learned **principles of NLP and ML** under supervision of Dr. P. Langlais.

Theoretical and Quantum Computing Lab @ UMontreal | Summer Research Intern   **Montreal, Quebec**

- Built a **real-life demonstration of the BB84 quantum cryptography protocol** with the help of laser beams,   **Jul. 2019 - Aug. 2019**
polarizing systems and beam splitter. **3D modelling** was used to create and print custom-made mounts.

Projects **+** Extracurricular

Applied Research in Linguistics Informatics Lab @ UMontreal | Research Project   **Jan-May 2022**

NLP undergraduate research project under suprevision of Dr. P. Langlais. Determined possible differences in context   **Project link**
of word's female vs male usage, by vectorizing and analyzing a corpus of 100 years of French Newspapers

UMontreal's Women in CS | Co-Founder & Spokeswoman   **May 2020-Present**

Took initiative to **co-found and lead University in Montreal's Women in CS group**, ensuring a lasting impact on our   **Group page**
university. We now have 100+ members and have organized multiple succesful events!

Honours **+** Awards

2022	**2nd Place Overall** *McGill Women in CS **2022 Hackathon** - For our wardrobe app powered by graph algos.*	*Montreal, Quebec*
2019	**Ada-Lovelace Scholarship** *"Given to **one female student per year with academic excellence** and **who shows great interest and involvement in the fields of Computer Science and Mathematics**"*	*Montreal, Quebec*
2019	**2nd Place** Best (college level) Thesis Presentation - *Thesis about **Greenhouse Optimization***	*Montreal, Quebec*
2015-19	**Other Prizes:** Canadian **Robotics** Competition (CRC) **(2nd place** team prize) **(2019)** • AURA Prize for **Student Engagement (2015)** • Desautels (McGill) Preparatory Case Competition (**1st place**) **(2015)**	*Montreal, Quebec*