Personal Description:

HEYY, I’m Mitali! I am currently a rising sophomore pursuing Computer Science with Interdisciplinary Honors at the University of Washington. I love Computer Science because it is one of the few fields which allows tangible gratification – one can conceive of an idea and actually see it come to fruition within a few months, an aspect that I find extremely rewarding and exciting.

Tracing my path to UW, I moved around quite a bit, spending almost eight years in India, the country of my ethnic origin. Whilst living in India, I was exposed to a diverse demographic with a unique set of perspectives and issues as well as a very stringent educational set-up which laid emphasis on grades and rote learning. This challenging environment instilled in me a sense of self-discipline and motivation to take advantage of the opportunities presented to me at UW. I have supplemented these skills at UW with a holistic ‘outside the classroom’ experience, immersing myself in hands-on learning through the Interdisciplinary Honors program and in leadership experiences that promote women in STEM.

I took my first Computer Science course my freshman year of high school, opting for Computer Applications as an elective. I distinctly remember the bewilderment and awe that I felt when within milliseconds of pressing the *'compile'* button, the terminal window flashed with the message, "Hello World", converting my Java source code into an actual virtual manifestation. Even though I might have been one of the few girls in my class, I began to love programming once I understood the logic behind the programming syntax.

Coming to UW, my schema of Computer Science has accelerated from programming taught within the classroom to the realm of algorithms, software and hardware as they relate to CSE subfields such as Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Ubiquitous Computing. In the past year, UW has pushed me to explore the unknown and along the way discover my interests in CSE. Honors CSE exposed me to solving logic puzzles, engaging in activities that stretch my imagination like programming bots (which I hadn’t even heard of) and learning about the software development industry through hands-on learning. Being intrinsically excited about the new content that I learnt every week, I have sought to work on some personal projects, including but not limited to and XHTML-CSS Validator, a Tic-Tac-Toe Game as well as this website itself!

Outside of classes, I have immersed in self-learning about Ubiquitous Computing, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics through online tutorials and research papers. To that end, I have joined the UbiComp Research Lab wherein I am creating an Android App that monitors sleep patterns, have founded the VEX Robotics club, an RSO that creates robots to participate in the annual VEX competition and am taking an online Machine Learning course through Coursera over the summer.

Finally, I have realized my passion for education and information access, particularly for women and minority groups, an aspect that has been an important focus of my freshman year at UW. I believe that diversity is invaluable in promoting a more balanced and inclusive thought process and perspective. As the VP of Community Outreach for UW SWE, I lead a team of volunteers that organizes programming workshops, panel discussions, company tours and hands-on experiences for young women to encourage, but most important inspire them to purse their scientific dreams. Through these endeavors, I work towards creating a more positive academic experience for my peers and community. I find it extremely gratifying that as a college freshman and now rising sophomore, I am able to have such a positive impact on my community, influencing the career goals of many young women.

In the short term, I would like to focus on my interests within CSE, by delving deeper into research and taking upper division CSE classes while also building on my peer experiences across campus in the past year. Over the longer term, I look forward to harnessing my creativity, passion for promoting diversity, and leadership abilities to create impactful software solutions.

I am currently looking for part-time opportunities in winter/spring as well as full-time research/internship opportunities to further develop my technical abilities while also working on projects that create impactful products for my community. Please feel free to contact me! ☺

I am currently looking for part-time internship

Being intrinsically excited about the new content that I learnt every week, I have sought to extend some of my assignments, such as implementing SpeedReader (CSE 154) using the Swing APIs in Java. Outside of classes, I have immersed in self-learning about Ubiquitous Computing, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics through online tutorials and research papers. To that end, I have joined the UbiComp Research Lab wherein I am creating an Android App that monitors sleep patterns, have founded the VEX Robotics club, an RSO that creates robots to participate in the annual VEX competition and am taking an online Machine Learning course through Coursera over the summer.

Every day I wake up feeling extremely grateful at and motivated to take advantage of the unique and diverse set of opportunities that I am provided both within and outside of UW.