

NIKA JURLIN, PH.D.

Data Analyst

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Google Scholar



SUMMARY

- **Data analyst** with a Ph.D. in Astrophysics and **9+ years** delivering end-to-end research across Europe & the US
- Expert in **Python, SQL, and statistical modelling** (NumPy, pandas, scikit-learn), with strong skills in **data visualization** (matplotlib, seaborn, Tableau).
- **Cross-disciplinary communicator**: managed stakeholders across Europe & the US; mentored five early-career researchers; and delivered 50+ scientific/outreach presentations and workshops
- Determined to apply my technical expertise, analytical mindset, and collaborative approach to develop innovative, data-driven solutions that make everyday systems smarter and more sustainable.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Physics & Math Educator

Sep 2024 – Present

Remote

- Taught and mentored **23 students** with classes across mechanics, quantum physics, thermodynamics, astrophysics, statistics, and programming. **100%** students achieved top grades, rated **5/5** on Preply.
- Led and designed interactive astronomy workshops, engaging **40+** children through hands-on experiments.

Research Scientist | Data Analysis for Astronomy

Sep 2022 – Sep 2024

University of Texas at Austin – US

- Designed and implemented **Python-based data pipelines** with Bayesian inference and regression to process **376 GB** of high-dimensional data.
- Built **Tableau** and **Python** visualizations to communicate project results with collaborators and stakeholders.
- Secured **€180K in funding**, managing projects from concept to deployment and coordinating with international partners.
- Mentored 3 early-career researchers and led weekly project meetings.

Research Scientist | Astronomy and Astrophysics

Jul 2017 – Sep 2022

University of Groningen and ASTRON – Netherlands

- Built data-driven statistical models on **radio observations** to quantify empirical trends and interpret high-energy astrophysics.
- Secured **420+ hours of observing time** (~ €500K equivalent) via competitive proposals, demonstrating strong project management and stakeholder engagement.
- Managed multi-year international projects, published results, and presented at international conferences.

Data and Process Analyst Intern

Jan 2016 – Jan 2017

Miltonia d.o.o. – Croatia

- Analyzed production efficiency using **SQL**, identifying bottlenecks and recommending data-driven improvements.
- Developed roadmap for two new assembly machines, improving operational efficiency by 15%.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Founded Astronomy on Tap Groningen**, leading a group of 12, organizing and hosting 25+ monthly outreach events bridging science and society with international speakers.
- Secured **€180K** in competitive grants and 420+ hours of observing time (€500K equivalent).
- Published **19 peer-reviewed publications** and delivered **40+ presentations** and outreach talks.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.** Astrophysics *University of Groningen — Netherlands* 2017–2022
- **M.Sc.** Physics *University of Zagreb — Croatia* 2015–2017

VOLUNTEERING & OUTREACH

Science Communicator & Public Speaker — International, Europe & US 2015–Present

- Delivered **20+ popular science talks** across Europe and the US, engaging audiences of up to 100 people.
- Invited to speak at the [Long Center in Austin, US](#), **preceding a keynote by Neil deGrasse Tyson**.

Coastal Cleanup Volunteer — Groningen area, Netherlands 2019–2022

- Contributed to **environmental cleanup campaigns**, removing 200+ kg of waste from protected coastal areas.

STEM Outreach Mentor — UT Austin, US 2022–2024

- Mentored underrepresented students in science and technology, designing hands-on astronomy workshops and projects.

RELEVANT SKILLS

Data Analysis: Python (pandas, numpy, scipy, scikit-learn), SQL, data visualization (Matplotlib, Seaborn, Tableau), Bayesian inference, regression models, hypothesis testing, optimisation

Project Management: Agile/Scrum, grant management, proposal writing

Communication and Business: Problem solving, public speaking, stakeholder management

Languages: Croatian (native), English (C2), Italian (B2), Slovenian (B2), French (B1, working towards B2), German (B1), Dutch (A2, working towards B1)

INTERESTS

- Sustainable innovation
- Squash and hiking
- Woodworking and art
- Building telescopes and radio systems