

# NIKI TAVAKOLI

nikitava@usc.edu | (949) 278-5656 | nikitavakoli.github.io | 📍 Los Angeles, CA

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC)

M.S. Biomedical Engineering and Biomedical Data Analytics | May 2021 | 3.85 GPA

Relevant Coursework: Database Systems, Machine Learning, Biomedical Informatics, Signals & Systems Analysis

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

B.S. Psychology | June 2018 | 3.70 GPA | Regents Scholarship Recipient

Relevant Coursework: Molecular & Cellular Biology, Statistics, Organic Chemistry, Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra

## EXPERIENCE

### Data Science Intern

Nov 2019 – Present

Leaf Group Ltd. – Santa Monica, CA

- Used the Google BigQuery API to reduce over 10 million rows of JSON data down into hundreds that would best satisfy requirements for improving site traffic and position on Google. I then trained this data using a prediction model that I built and tested. The overall increase in traffic led to several webpages being changed for performance improvement through Mongo.
- Performed web scraping from various sources to help create interactive charts and maps for company websites using several visualization libraries.

### Graduate Student Researcher

June 2019 – Aug 2019

USC Keck School of Medicine – Los Angeles, CA

- Conducted research in the Department of Molecular Microbiology that integrates gene sequencing, bioinformatics pipeline, and statistical analysis to improve HIV vaccine design strategy.
- Compiled copious amounts of quantitative research data from previous studies performed on the gut microbiota of HIV patients and co-created a large database in Python to be used for analysis and modeling.

### Clinical Neurofeedback Intern

Peak Brain Institute – Los Angeles, CA

June 2017 – Aug 2018

- Administered electroencephalograms (EEG's) on patients through the use of EEGr4 software and attachment of a 2-4 channel amplifier and electrodes on the skull to collect brain wave data.
- Exported EEG brain maps after editing out unusable and noisy data from the EEG session using proper protocols and created brain charts of abnormal activity for the doctor to discuss with patients.
- Conducted neurofeedback trials using neurofeedback software and specified frequencies by the doctor.

### STEM Center Outreach Assistant

USC Viterbi School of Engineering – Los Angeles, CA

Aug 2019 – Present

- Help organize and plan in hands-on events and camps in LA's disadvantaged schools to educationally inspire young and underrepresented minority kids in order to build STEM identities and participation in STEM.

## SKILLS

**Programming:** Python (Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-Learn, BeautifulSoup), MatLab

**Database Libraries:** MongoDB, MySQL, PostgreSQL

**Data Visualization:** Matplotlib, Plotly, Seaborn

**Cloud Computing:** Google Cloud Platform

**Other:** Bash, (Linux/Unix)

Web Dev (Git, HTML5, CSS),  
Microsoft Excel

## LEADERSHIP

**Graduate:** Women in Science & Engineering, Engineering Graduate Student Gov't, Data Science Club

**Undergraduate:** UCLA Clinical Care Extender Internship, Regents Scholar Society, College Ambassador, IGSA