

# Nikos Pagonas

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## Contact

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## Education

**Columbia University**

*PhD in Computer Science*

Advisor: Prof. [Kostis Kaffes](#)

GPA: 3.94/4.00

Member of [DAPLab](#), focusing on AI systems. Working on improving scheduling for agentic workflows, accelerating application-agnostic LLM serving, and providing efficient simulation support for agentic rollouts.

Sep 2024 – Present

New York, NY, US

**National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)**

*Master of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Advisors: Prof. [Nikos Vasilakis](#), Prof. [Georgios Goumas](#)

GPA: 9.39/10.00 (14<sup>th</sup> out of 344 students)

Thesis: “*SPLASH: Scaling Out Shell Scripts on Serverless Platforms*”

Oct 2018 – Jun 2024

Athens, Greece

## Experience

**Google**

*Student Researcher*

Supervisor: Prof. [Arvind Krishnamurthy](#)

Designed and implemented [Cortex](#), a prototype agentic serving platform that leverages workflow-awareness and stage isolation to improve scheduling and KV cache efficiency in agentic NL2SQL workflows.

May 2025 – Aug 2025

Sunnyvale, CA, US

**Brown University**

*Student Researcher*

Advisor: Prof. [Nikos Vasilakis](#)

Contributed to [PASH](#), an open-source [Linux Foundation](#) project. Worked on improving the performance of shell scripts by running them on serverless infrastructure, and providing fault tolerance for distributed shell script execution.

Sep 2023 – May 2024

Providence, RI, US

**Arrikto Inc.**

*Software Engineering Intern*

Supervisor: [Vangelis Koukis](#)

Explored how to serve PyTorch models more efficiently through KServe, a highly scalable machine learning deployment platform for Kubernetes.

Dec 2022 – Mar 2023

Athens, Greece

Awards	<a href="#">Columbia University Presidential Fellowship</a>	2024
	A.G. Leventis Foundation Scholarship	2025
	Gerondelis Foundation Scholarship	2025
	ACM SOSP 2025 Student Travel Grant	2025
Publications	<a href="#">Cortex: Workflow-Aware Resource Pooling and Scheduling for Agentic Serving</a> Nikos Pagonas, Yeounoh Chung, Kostis Kaffes, Arvind Krishnamurthy <i>1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Systems for Agentic AI (SAA 2025)</i>	
	<a href="#">λeash: Scaling Out Shell Scripts with Resumable Cloud Computing</a> <i>(Under Submission)</i>	
	<a href="#">A System-Centric Approach is Necessary for AI Agents</a> <i>(Under Submission)</i>	
Service	EuroSys 2026 <a href="#">Artifact Evaluation Committee</a>	2026
	SOSP 2025 <a href="#">Artifact Evaluation Committee</a>	2025
	OSDI 2025 <a href="#">Artifact Evaluation Committee</a>	2025
	ATC 2025 <a href="#">Artifact Evaluation Committee</a>	2025
	EuroSec 2024 <a href="#">Web and Publication Chair</a>	2024
Teaching	Columbia University <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Course: Networks, Crowds, and the Web Professor: <a href="#">Augustin Chaintreau</a>	Fall 2025 New York, NY, US
	Columbia University <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Course: <a href="#">Agentic Systems Made Real</a> Professors: <a href="#">Eugene Wu</a> , Kostis Kaffes	Spring 2025 New York, NY, US
	Brown University <i>Teaching Assistant</i> Course: <a href="#">Systems Transforming Systems</a>	Fall 2024 Providence, RI, US

Professor: [Nikos Vasilakis](#)

Guided students through a systems research project, including implementation, evaluation, and paper writing. Paper submitted to USENIX ATC 2025.

**Brown University**

*Teaching Assistant*

Course: [Distributed Systems](#)

Professor: [Nikos Vasilakis](#)

Helped revamp the course by redesigning its semester-long project and implementing its autograding infrastructure from scratch.

Spring 2024  
Providence, RI, US

**National Technical University of Athens**

*Lab Assistant*

Course: Operating Systems

Professors: [N. Koziris](#), [G. Goumas](#)

Spring 2022  
Athens, Greece

**National Technical University of Athens**

*Lab Assistant*

Course: Programming Techniques

Professors: [N. Papaspyrou](#), [A. Pagourtzis](#), [G. Stamou](#), [G. Goumas](#)

Spring 2020  
Athens, Greece

**National Technical University of Athens**

*Lab Assistant*

Course: Introduction to Programming

Professors: [N. Papaspyrou](#), [D. Fotakis](#), [S. Zachos](#)

Fall 2019  
Athens, Greece

**Research  
Mentoring**

[Grace Li](#)

*Columbia University, BS in CS and Math*

Sep 2025 – Present

[Joey Huang](#)

*Columbia University, BS in CS*

Sep 2025 – Present

[Matthew Lou](#)

*Columbia University, BS in CS and Applied Math*

Sep 2025 – Present

**Skills**

**Prog. Languages** Python, C, Shell, Javascript, Java, Go

**Frameworks** LangChain, LangGraph

**Platforms** AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Apache Kafka, Apache Spark

**Tools** Git, LaTeX

**Languages**

**English** Fluent — TOEFL iBT 116/120 (C2)

**Greek** Native