

Nina Tran

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HCI is my middle name. I'm Deaf. I enjoy doing puzzles.

About me

I'm so incredibly curious! I love learning about the world. I am passionate about accessibility. With that in mind, I bring over 4 years of hands-on experience in HCI research, encompassing qualitative and quantitative methodologies, statistical analysis, accessibility testing, and expertise in UX/UI.

Education

M.S. Gallaudet University **Dec 2023**
Accessible Human-centered Computing

B.A. University of Washington **Dec 2021**
Disability Studies and Informatics

Work Experience

Freelancer **Jan 24 - Present**
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada

- Built professional relationships through Disability:IN, LinkedIn, CHI, ASSETS, and reaching out to contacts.
- Developed my GitHub Pages website using Jekyll, Git, and the Terminal.
- Expanded my skill set through online courses and adapted my job search strategies based on feedback and results.
- Explored industries, companies, and positions that align with my skills and interests.
- Conducted assessment for accessibility using W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

Graduate Research Assistant **Aug 22 - Dec 23**
Gallaudet University, Washington, District of Columbia, USA

- Designed and implemented the Wizard-of-Oz experimental setup, allowing me to evaluate the usability and accessibility of smart home assistants such as Amazon's Alexa and Google Home Assistant.
- Formulated surveys to recruit 100+ deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) participants for two separate WoZ experiments.
- Conducted user interviews and usability sessions with 50+ DHH participants who met the specified criteria.
- Employed Microsoft Excel and R for data analysis, crafting visualizations to convey findings effectively.

Corporate Partner Lead **Jun 23 - Jul 23**
The Data Mine at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA

- Supervised 12 undergraduate students, including leading weekly meetings and guiding them using Agile methodology.
- Served as a Project Manager for two separate experimental learning teams and communicated with the company's mentors.

Graduate Research Assistant

Sept 22 - Apr 23

National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes, Austin, Texas, USA

- Investigated all the incoming requests via e-mail from different stakeholders seeking information on improving postsecondary outcomes for people with disabilities.
- Conducted user research and provided insights on the website's [data dashboard](#) designs.
- Shared outcomes and insights with 20+ requesting stakeholders, while also providing concise summaries through [data briefs](#).

Research Intern

May 21 - Sept 21

Microsoft Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

- Developed the study design focused on the deaf community's perspective of automated sign language translation (ASLT) using user-centered research methodologies.
- Designed the recruitment methods to motivate deaf and hard of hearing people who meet the participant criteria through social media, word of mouth, and email.
- Recruited and conducted interviews with over 150+ deaf and hard of hearing participants.
- Synthesized findings derived from the analyzed data, utilizing CSV files sourced from Microsoft Forms and employing R programming language for in-depth analysis.

Publications

- “Assessment of Sign Language-Based versus Touch-Based Input for Deaf Users Interacting with Intelligent Personal Assistants,” CHI Conference, May 2024
- “Sign Language-Based versus Touch-Based Input for Deaf Users with Interactive Personal Assistants in Simulated Kitchen Environments,” CHI Conference, May 2024
- “U.S. Deaf Community Perspectives on Automatic Sign Language Translation,” ASSETS Conference, September 2023

Skills and Tools

Technical Skills: Usability testing, Prototyping (Advanced), Wireframing (Advanced), Satisfaction Surveys, Affinity Mapping, Accessibility testing

Techniques: Heuristic evaluation, Field studies, User personas, In-depth interviews, Focus groups, User interviews

Research Skills: Research planning, Project management, Agile methodology, Design and evaluation methods, Data synthesis, Statistical analysis, Qualitative and quantitative research, Accessibility assessment

Soft Skills: Bias awareness, Communication, Empathy, Collaboration, Positive attitude, Self-motivation, Problem solving, Continuous learning, Thinking outside the box

Tools: Agile, R, Python, Git, Microsoft Excel/Forms, Google Forms, Figma, ELAN Annotation, Monday.com, Miro, Canva, Qualtrics XM, Alchemer, The System Usability Scale (SUS), Net Promoter Score (NPS), WAVE Evaluation, aXe, VPAT, NVDA