

Riya Patil

Hello! My name is Riya Patil, and I am from San Diego, California. I went to Del Norte High School, and some of my interests include art (usually digital), writing, reading, and playing video games. I like drinking coffee just for the taste and enjoy spending time exploring different places in LA.

I chose UCLA because it offered me a great balance of academics, opportunities, and forming a strong community. The ECE department is full of incredible faculty and super interesting research topics – something that influenced my decision to join quite a bit – and it definitely doesn't disappoint.

Ever since I was a kid, I loved to engage in engineering activities, from playing with Snap Circuits and LEGOs to working with the hardware and software of robotics. I always knew I wanted to be an engineer, and chose ECE because I wanted a major that allowed me to flexibly explore many different areas. In the future, I would love to contribute to innovations in areas like embedded systems and chips.

At UCLA, I'm involved in IEEE, particularly the Micromouse project, where I learned a multitude of new skills like working with microcontrollers and designing a PCB for the first time to help our little mouse navigate a maze. I am also in WATT, a technical advocacy group for female engineers, and in doing so I have made many close friends and connected a lot with my fellow women in ECE. Outside of academics and engineering, I attend some art club meetings for fun and a change of pace.

I would love to dabble a bit in everything before deciding on concrete goals for my career, but a lot of my interest in electrical and computer engineering lies in chip design and semiconductors. I enjoy doing research, and am interested in pursuing a masters in ECE after finishing my bachelors and before going into industry. As for now, I want to see where my journey at UCLA leads me.

