

Abbas Bakhshandeh

Fast Track Student of the Month



Birthplace: **Santa Clara, California**

Hometown: **Fremont, California**

Schooling: **Irvington High School**

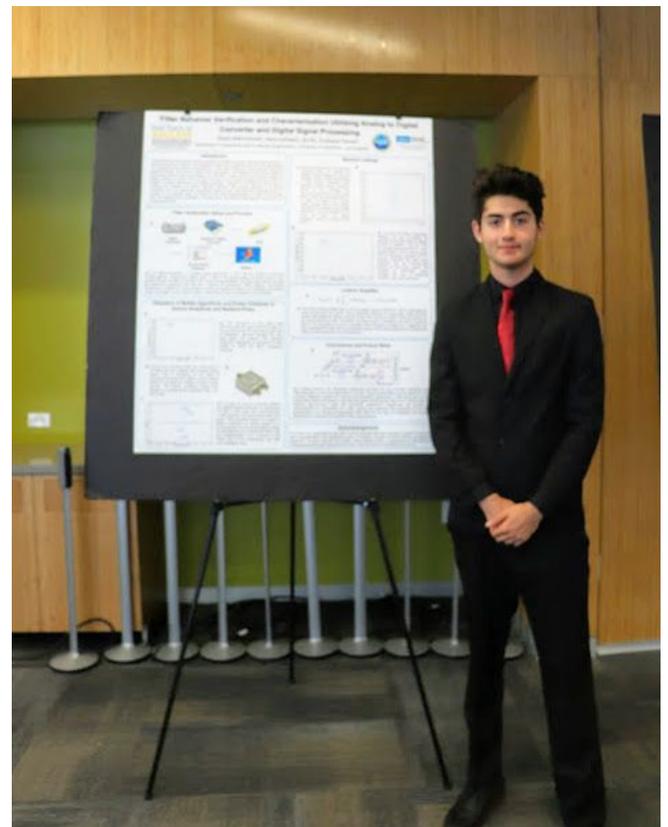
Interests: **Reading, soccer, good food, basketball**

When did you know you wanted to be an ECE?

Over the course of my high school career I found myself more engaged in my math and science subjects, and after working in ECE specific projects through extracurricular activities and noticing my enthusiasm for the subject, I was confident I wanted to pursue a career in ECE.

Who has influenced you the most in your choice of your academic field?

My dad has pursued a career in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and being exposed to his work definitely sparked my interest in the subject. Through him and his work, I was able to see that ECE allows for personal growth in addition to providing opportunities to contribute to meaningful projects.



Why did you choose the UCLA ECE program?

The Fast Track program allows us to take enriching honors courses while also providing individualized advising. We also have the opportunity to become exposed to a multitude of different research

projects and have the chance to get personally involved with them. The academic curriculum of the Electrical and Computer Engineering department and the Fast Track Program provides us deep foundational knowledge paired with hands-on experience, which will prepare me for any complex issues I may work to solve in the future. I have also been impressed with the positive, vibrant, and collaborative culture of the ECE and Fast Track programs, which emphasize solving challenging problems using creative ideas in a team-based setting.

How has it been being on a big campus so far?

I have enjoyed UCLA's campus so far. There are a number of activities that one can get involved in, and almost every interest group imaginable is represented here on campus. It has been enjoyable to get exposed to the different schools of thought and the diverse set of people that are represented here on campus.



What are you interested in as a career?

While I am still being exposed to different subject matters and opportunities, I am certain that I want my career to involve solving challenging problems, taking leadership roles, and using my creative skills to impact the world in tangible ways.