

NICOLA CONTA

UCLA FAST TRACK ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING



MY NAME IS NIC CONTA AND I'M FROM IRVINE, CALIFORNIA. I GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL AND AM CURRENTLY PLANNING TO MAJOR IN EE. I LOVE PLAYING SPORTS, BEING OUTSIDE, HIKING, AND TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES. I LIKE DISCOVERING NEW MUSIC AND MY GOAL FOR THIS SUMMER IS TO START LEARNING HOW TO PLAY GUITAR. I'M INTERESTED IN 3D MODELING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN. I'M ALSO ITALIAN AND I LOVE COOKING AND LEARNING NEW RECIPES



Why UCLA ECE?

I chose UCLA because it appeared to be a school with the best work-life balance, and I have not yet been disappointed. I will say it is challenging and tiring to be involved in many different things, but it's all very beneficial and I haven't had a single second thought about my choice. Being at a large public school I'm exposed to so much that I'm not used to and that forces me out of my comfort zone.

How are you involved at UCLA?

I joined the club soccer team where I get to continue to play the sport I love at a very high level. (Bonus points I also get to play with my older brother!)

I'm currently working on a micro-mouse project with IEEE to design a robot to traverse a maze, and am planning to look into Bruinspace

I also occasionally go on excursions with the astronomy club as well as the backpacking club here on campus. Fast track and other clubs have been nice because they give a small school community feel to such a huge campus like UCLA.



Personal Projects:

One of my favorite things to do is to go to the Makerspace to make random things. I've 3D printed some cool objects, laser-cut designs onto wood to make wall art, and even made my own t-shirts with my roommate. They're my new go-to gifts to give people.

Some other projects that I've been working on are making a search engine for my family website, and designing children's books with my great-aunt

Education and career plans:

Career-wise I will say that I am very much still figuring it out but I would love to go into a field related to renewable energy. I'm also interested in totally unrelated fields like machine learning, IoT, brain machine interfaces, and also medical devices.

I think I want to get a Masters after UCLA, and will possibly look into UCLA's 4+1 program. I like Electrical Engineering because I think it will give me a very solid background where I will have opportunities to branch out to pretty much anything technology-related that interests me and that I could make an impact in.