

Ariana Mirian

*IDEA Center's Spotlight on UCSD's
Women in Engineering*

Quick Facts

Grade: PhD Candidate

Major: Computer Science and Engineering

Outside interests: Circus arts, cosplay, and anything related to food



Questions about your experiences:

How did you decide on pursuing a graduate degree? What advice would you give to students who are planning to pursue a graduate degree?

I decided to pursue a PhD because I love research! I spent some time during my undergrad doing research in network security and really enjoyed it but realized after talking with some folks that many more doors in the research realm would be opened if I pursued a PhD. I would advise students getting a graduate degree to spend the time exploring new avenues and areas! A graduate degree is great for learning more, and so utilizing that opportunity to its greatest potential is key!



Why did you help create CSE's DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) committee? How have you impacted others through being on this committee?

I helped to create this committee so that everyone can feel like they are welcome and treated equitably in our department. I think UCSD CSE is a great community full of humble, fantastic researchers, and I wanted to not only help the department grow, but also allow the folks in the department to feel as comfortable as possible. I believe I've impacted others by creating avenues to get involved and donate time and energy to these initiatives!

What are your plans for the future?

Currently I'm pretty interested in remaining in academia as a professor. I love doing research and helping other students grow in their research goals, so I'd really like to continue those endeavors by staying in academia.

From your experiences, what advice would you offer current students in general?

Follow your interests, even if they change over time! It's natural for people's interests to fluctuate and grow as they experience new things; don't be afraid to try new opportunities, especially if they are outside what you thought you might be interested in.



