

Student Profile

Balint Tillman – Networked Systems PhD Program

Your Time at UCI



What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

I've briefly got introduced to some interesting problems during my master's program which I wanted to further explore, and a PhD was the right format to do so.

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

UCI offered a unique chance for me to visit the USA and provide further opportunities to learn new skills and build connections in both academia and industry.

If you are conducting research, how would you explain your research and its significance to your grandparent?

I'm expanding theoretical frameworks to better understand the building blocks of social networks.

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

I'm a long-time member of the Taoist Tai Chi Society and I've been practicing these internal arts to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Reflections

What are you most proud of accomplishing (so far) in your graduate program?

The most satisfying moments were when we managed to prove challenging theorems in collaboration with others and share this accomplishment.

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI to date?

It's the time when we've decorated our lab with Game of Thrones banners and I could see how much people enjoy them.

What advice do you have for a new graduate student in your program?

Learn about yourself and understand where you want to be after your program and work towards these goals!

Career

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

I would like to keep solving interesting problems at scale in industry.

How do you hope to make a difference?

I hoped to see my work positively effect humanity at scale while instructing tai chi in my spare time helps a smaller community on a more personal level.