Nina K. Tran

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Education

Gallaudet University *Washington, D.C., USA*

MS Accessible Human-centered Computing *August 2022 - December 2023*
- Advisor: Dr. Christian Vogler and Dr. Raja Kushalnagar
- Thesis: What is Project Alexa?: Design and Research on Intelligent Personal Assistants for Deaf users

University of Washington *Seattle, Washington, USA*

BA Disability Studies and Informatics *September 2019 - December 2021*
- Advisor: Dr. Richard E. Ladner
- Thesis: Exploring the Deaf Community's Perspectives on Automatic Sign Language Translation Systems

Research Experience

TU Wien *Remote (Halifax, NS, Canada)*

Freelance *January 2024 - present*
- AccessTech, Dr. Katta Spiel's Lab

Gallaudet University *Washington, DC, USA*

Graduate Research Assistant *August 2022 - December 2023*
- Technology Access Program (TAP)

Purdue University *West Lafayette, IN, USA*

Partner Teaching Assistant Lead *May 2023 - July 2023*
- The Data Mine

University of Texas *Austin, TX, USA*

Graduate Research Assistant *September 2022 - April 2023*
- National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes

Microsoft Research *Remote (Seattle, WA, USA)*

Undergraduate Research Intern *May 2021 - September 2021*
- Microsoft Research New England Lab

Research Focus

Accessibility: Exploring and understanding how technology can be inclusively designed to ensure that people with disabilities can use these services and products effectively, maximizing their usability.

AI and Machine Learning: Developing AI sign language interpreter prototypes that explores how they can adapt to the needs of deaf people, addressing challenges related to multilingual sign language learning models.

Human-Computer Interaction: Investigating the relationships between AI, deaf people, and sign language interpreters and conducting participatory design workshops.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Papers, Published in Conference Proceedings

[P.2] **Nina Tran,** Paige S DeVries, Matthew Seita, Raja Kushalnagar, Abraham Glasser, and Christian Vogler. 2024. Assessment of Sign Language-Based versus Touch-Based Input for Deaf Users Interacting with Intelligent Personal Assistants. In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 53, 1–15.

[P.1] Paige S Devries, **Nina Tran,** Keith Delk, Melanie Miga, Richard Carlisle Taulbee, Pranav Pidathala, Abraham Glasser, Raja Kushalnagar, and Christian Vogler. 2024. Sign Language-Based versus Touch-Based Input for Deaf Users with Interactive Personal Assistants in Simulated Kitchen Environments. In Extended Abstracts of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 290, 1–9.

Other Publications or Posters

[O.2] **Nhan Tran**, Keith Delk, and Harendra Urduwana. 2023. Sign Mates Matchmaking App. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency at the 2023 ESRI Federal GIS Conference, February 13-14, 2023, Washington, DC.

[O.1] **Nhan Tran**, Richard E. Ladner, and Danielle Bragg. 2023. U.S. Deaf Community Perspectives on Automatic Sign Language Translation. In The 25th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '23), October 20-25, 2023, New York, NY, 7 pages.

Invited Panels

January 2022. *My Experiences Growing Up Deaf in an Immigrant Hearing Family*. Seattle's Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA, USA.

December 2021. *Graduate Open House as a Panelist*. Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, USA.

Awards

BisonTank 2023 Business Award	April 2023
CRA-WP Grad Cohort for IDEALS Travel Scholarship	April 2023
CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women Travel Scholarship	March 2023

AccessComputing Travel Scholarship	September 2023
The Dennis Lang Award Nomination	June 2021
Quarterly Dean's List Scholarship	May 2021
Quarterly Dean's List Scholarship	March 2021
Quarterly Dean's List Scholarship	December 2020
Quarterly Dean's List Scholarship	May 2020

Services Activities

Conference Roles

Moderator, 2024 Symposium on AI and Sign Language Interpretation, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA.

Reviewing

Reviewer, 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2025), Tokyo, Japan.

Professional Memberships

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)