

WSU News

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Meet a Shocker: Valerie Hubener

By WSU Strategic Communications



Hometown

Damascus, Syria

Degree

I will be receiving my Master of Innovation Design (MID), focusing on UX design and UX research.

What made you want to attend Wichita State?

I went to Wichita Collegiate for my senior year of high school, so WSU was an easy decision since I was already familiar with the area. I also graduated with my bachelor's from Wichita State in 2020.

How are you feeling leading up to graduation?

The closer graduation gets, the more enthusiastic I become about obtaining my master's and for the plans I have after. The past year and a half has been stressful and busy, but also the most satisfying. I'm looking forward to implementing what I've learned from my graduate experiences and MID in the industry.

What has been your biggest challenge as a student, and how did you overcome it?

The biggest challenge that I faced as a student, especially in graduate school, was overcoming imposter syndrome. I knew I had the ability to obtain my master's in the field, but putting myself out there — whether it was for internships, jobs or projects — was something I had to get used to. I would definitely say I am much more confident in my knowledge and abilities now.

What has been your most helpful learning experience at Wichita State?

The most helpful learning experience at WSU has been being involved in different research labs and projects. Doing that is what led me to learn about a field I had never heard of before and obtain the skills I needed to pursue a career in that field.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will be working as a UX researcher intern at Human Interfaces in Austin, Texas. I will be designing, conducting and reporting user studies.

What advice would you give other Wichita State students?

Try to branch out and see what opportunities are available to you. So many domains of study are interconnected, and you could benefit from learning about different perspectives. During my time in MID, I took graduate classes with the computer science and human factors psychology departments that provided me with a unique experience and set of skills.