

Sabrina Lakhdhir

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Research Interests — Wearables, Social Acceptability, Digital Fabrication, Creativity Support Tools, Wellbeing, HCI.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

Expected 2027

University of Victoria

Master of Science in Computer Science

Transferred to PhD

University of Victoria

Bachelor of Science, Honours, Computer Science

June 2021

University of Calgary

Minor: Visual Art and Art History

Concentration: Human Computer Interaction

Research and Professional Experience

Research Associate

September 2021 – Present

VIXI Lab, University of Victoria

Victoria, British Columbia

Related Publications: UR3, UR2, UR1, C5, C4, C3, J7, C2, J6, J5, J4, J3

- Led research projects to understand how we might empower and engage end-users in designing personalized devices.
- Performed qualitative analysis to understand users, and iterative prototyping to develop interactive systems and artifacts.
- Emphasized focus on user-centered research and design; the social impacts and acceptability of advancing technologies.
- Engaged with fabrication technologies: 3D printing, material explorations, laser cutting, sewing, Arduino, e-textile sensors and actuators.

Human Factors Research Intern

April 2024 – December 2024, May 2025 - August 2025

Home, Beats, and Ecosystem, Apple

Los Angeles, California

- Designed and conducted small- and large-scale (n=20-100) user studies to understand product fit, packaging, UI and UX; to make design recommendations for future products; and to collect product usage and sensor data. Studies utilized in-house developed testing tools, and employed varied methodologies to capture audio, visual, and textual data.
- Collected, organized, and analyzed qualitative and large-scale quantitative data related to user perception and anthropometric fit using Python scripts, built-in tools on spreadsheet applications, and thematic analysis.
- Wrote program-specific scripts for data collection, analysis, and task automation within third-party visualization softwares for efficient performance of repetitive tasks during visual analysis.
- Worked with various technologies: 3D scanning, 3D modelling, mixed material 3D printing, 3D visualization, Arduino.

Research Associate

October 2020 – September 2021

Multilingual Families Lab, University of Edmonton

Edmonton, Alberta

Related Publications: J2

- Collaborated with an interdisciplinary team to iteratively develop an application (HTML, JS, CSS) to support communication amongst families, therapists, and educators who face challenges due to language barriers.

Research Associate

September 2020 – August 2021

iLab, University of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

Related Publications: C1

- Conducted a design study to understand possible ideas of wearables to aid autonomous vehicle-pedestrian interactions.
- Ideated and prototyped a series of functional, soft-wearable prototypes that integrated e-textile sensors and actuators.

Summer Research Intern

May 2019 – August 2019

Calgary Pediatric Brain-Computer Interface Program, University of Calgary & Alberta Children's Hospital

Calgary, Alberta

Related Publications: J1

- Developed an interactive system (Unity, C#) using data collected by a transcranial magnetic stimulation robot to support remote training for healthcare staff.

Academic Teaching

Teaching Assistant

University of Victoria

CSC 595 (*Research Skills*)

Fall 2026

SENG 310 (*Human Computer Interaction*)

Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026

CSC 586B (*Designing Collaborative Technologies*)

Spring 2024

CSC 485C/578C (*Computing for Cognitive Augmentation*)

Fall 2022

CSC 106 (*The Practice of Computer Science*)

Spring 2022

Guest Lectures and Invited Talks

Student-Supervisor Relationships in Grad School, CSC 595, University of Victoria	October 2026
Towards a Framework for Whimsical, Yet Socially Acceptable Wearables for Well-Being, Salish CHI	May 2026
GlucMaker and Human-Centered Design, SENG 310, University of Victoria	May 2026
GlucMaker, Health Technology Showcase, University of Victoria	November 2025
Graduate Student Life in Victoria, CSC 595, University of Victoria	November 2025
Introduction to Prototyping: What, Why, and How, UVic WEST x UVic Robotics	October 2025
Designing Tools to Support the Customization of Wearables, Autodesk Research, MaRS Toronto	February 2023
Hour of Code, CSC 106, University of Victoria	November 2022
Creativity and Cognition, CSC 485C/578C, University of Victoria	November 2022
Customization of Personal Wearables, SENG 310, University of Victoria	July 2022
The Intersection of Art and Technology, CSC 106, University of Victoria	March 2022

Mentorship

Undergraduate Research Assistant - Riley Stolberg, University of Victoria	July 2026 – Present
Masters Student - Soyun Lee, University of Victoria	August 2026 – Present
Undergraduate Research Assistant - Charlotte Jacques, University of Victoria	January 2025 – August 2025
Masters Student - Chehak Nayar, University of Victoria	September 2022 – December 2023
Undergraduate MITACS Intern - Oishwarjya Banerjee, University of Victoria	July – October 2022
Undergraduate Honours Student - Vincent Potrykus, University of Victoria	January – April 2022

Publications

Conference Proceedings

- C5 Sowmya Somanath, Molly Stewart, **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Phaedra Berger, and Regan L. Mandryk. 2026. Understanding How Creativity Support Tools Can Foster Happiness. In Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 1004, 1–22. <https://doi-org/10.1145/3772318.3790898>
- C4 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Charles Perin, and Sowmya Somanath. 2024. *Expressive Clothing: Understanding Hobbyist-Sewers' Visions for Self-Expression Through Clothing*. In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 858, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642338>
- C3 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Chehak Nayar, Fraser Anderson, Helene Fournier, Liisa Holsti, Irina Kondratova, Charles Perin, and Sowmya Somanath. 2024. *GlucMaker: Enabling Collaborative Customization of Glucose Monitors*. In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 127, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642435>
- C2 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**. 2024. *Creating Positive Social Experiences Through the Design of Custom Wearables*. 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 428, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3638190>
- C1 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Sowmya Somanath, and Ehud Sharlin. 2023. *Wearing Awareness: Designing Pedestrian-Wearables for Interactions with Autonomous Vehicles*. In Extended Abstracts of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 316, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544549.3585655>

Under Review

- UR3 Charlotte Jacques, **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Elizabeth Reid, Anthony Estey, Regan Mandryk, Sowmya Somanath. *Gratitude Buddy: Design and Evaluation of Scaffolding Supports for a Mobile Gratitude Application*. Submitted to CHI'27.
- UR2 Soyun Lee, **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Sowmya Somanath. *Understanding Mechanisms for Designing Savouring Tools for Work*. Submitted to CHI'27.
- UR1 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Helene Fournier, Fraser Anderson, Liisa Holsti, Irina Kondratova, Charles Perin, and Sowmya Somanath. *Evaluating GlucMaker: A Tool for Co-Designing Bespoke Glucose Monitors*. Submitted to JMIR Formative Research.

Juried

- J8 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Sowmya Somanath. *Towards a Framework for Designing Socially Acceptable Wearables for Well-being*. Everyday Wearables for Personalized Health and Well-being Workshop at CHI '26.
- J7 **Sabrina Lakhndhir**, Sowmya Somanath. *Characteristics of Socially Acceptable Healthcare Devices*. HCI & Health Workshop at CHI '25.

- J6 **Sabrina Lakhdhir**, Charles Perin, and Sowmya Somanath. *Envisioning Tools to Support Creating Information-Communicating Garments*. Poster Presentation at Graphics Interface (GI '23).
- J5 **Sabrina Lakhdhir**, Liisa Holsti, Helene Fournier, Irina Kondratova, Fraser Anderson, Charles Perin, and Sowmya Somanath. *Engaging Diverse Individuals in Remote Co-Design to Collaboratively Design Personalized Glucose Monitors*. A Workshop on Disability Inclusive Remote Co-Design at ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22).
- J4 **Sabrina Lakhdhir**, Helene Fournier, Irina Kondratova, Fraser Anderson and Sowmya Somanath. *Tools for Collaboratively Designing and Evaluating Personalized Assistive Technologies*. Poster presented at Celebrating the Success of Women in STEM Symposium: Pushing the frontiers of research through collaboration. (Feb. 2022); virtual.
- J3 **Sabrina Lakhdhir** and Sowmya Somanath. *Envisioning a Toolkit for Storytelling with Garments*. Toolkits & Wearables Workshop at CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22).
- J2 Catrine Demers, **Sabrina Lakhdhir**, Skanda Kaushik, Zhanika Gimeno, Drishti Munjal, Lucy Yang, Rigel Tormon, Whitney Ebose, and Andrea AN MacLeod. *linGrow: Development of a multilingual app to support home-school communication of multilingual families*. (2021).
- J1 **Sabrina Lakhdhir**, Adam Kirton, Ephrem Zewdie. *A Virtual Trainer for Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation*. Poster at Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Summer Student Research Symposium (ACHRI 2019).

Academic Service

Assistant to Artifacts and Systems Subcommittee Chairs
Student Volunteer Co-Chair
Accessibility Co-Chair

Designing Interactive Systems 2026
Graphics Interface 2023
Designing Interactive Systems 2022

Program Committee GI '23, GI '24, GI '26, CHIWORK '26

Associate Chair CHI '26 Poster Track, TEI '27

Student Volunteer CHI '23, DIS '26

Reviewer CHI '22*, TEI WIP '23, CHI '23, CHI LBW '23, C&C Pictorial '23, DIS '23, INTERACT Short Papers '23, GI '23, UIST '23, TEI '24, TEI Pictorials '24, GI '24, TEI Papers '25, TEI Pictorials '25, TEI WIP '25, CHI '25*, CHI '26*, CHI '26 Posters, CHIWORK '26, GI '26*, TEI '27, CHI '27

* Special Recognition

Scholarships, Honours, and Awards

Robert W. Ford, Donald Wagg, & Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Graduate Scholarships	December 2025
President's Research Scholarship	May 2026, May 2025, May 2024, May 2023
University of Victoria Graduate Award	July 2025, July 2024, July 2023, April 2023, April 2022
ACM Doctoral Consortium Award	May 2024
CUPE 4163 Conference Award Fund	April 2026, May 2025, May 2024, April 2023
NSERC Post Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral	May 2023
Faculty of Graduate Studies International Travel Grant	April 2023, October 2022
Stantec Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Scholarship	December 2022
British Columbia Graduate Scholarship	September 2022
Gary Marsden Travel Award	May 2022
University of Victoria Graduate Fellowship Award	September 2021

Professional Memberships

ACM SIGCHI Member
Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Student Member

Skills

Programming	Python, Java, C# (Unity), HTML, CSS, JS, Swift, Arduino
Tools	Visual Studio Code, PyCharm, Processing, Tableau, Git, Microsoft Office, JMP
Design	Graphic design (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator), UI/UX prototyping (InVision, Adobe XD)
Digital Fabrication	3D modelling (Tinkercad, Paraview, Meshlab), 3D printing, 3D scanning (Artec), graphic development, laser cutting (Lightburn), e-textiles (Arduino, Adafruit, Lilypad)
Qualitative Research	Thematic analysis, grounded theory
Research Methods	Interviews, Diary Studies, Focus Groups, Design Probes