

UC DAVIS **MATHEMATICS**

OCTOBER 2021

MATHEMATICS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



FEATURING: SAMEERAH HELAL

**4TH YEAR APPLIED MATH AND STATISTICS MAJOR
MINOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Sameerah Helal transferred to UCD in Fall 2019 from Mission Valley College. She is currently planning to graduate this quarter with Applied Mathematics and Statistics along with a minor in Computer Science. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking (eating), going on random walks, making lists, reading, and painting. Her favourite color(s) is really dark red and the color of her scarf in the picture above. Her favourite food is anything on rice and a fun fact about Sameerah is that she is Canadian. Sameerah's passions and interests for the future is to use data analysis and machine learning to find useful patterns in different types of data.

Since arriving, Sameerah has worked as a Learning Assistant in math with Dr. Korana Burke, completed a Math thesis with Dr. Stephanie Dodson and remains heavily involved with the Math Department attending many events. She presented her research this quarter at our Fall Research Conference this month and students were thrilled to hear about the experience. Cydney Matteson says "Sameerah is always on top of academic planning and is always willing to help when needed. Sameerah also worked for the Math Department as an undergraduate reader working for a variety of instructors with different courses each time. Sameerah never fails to amaze me with her ability to balance out her schedule and succeed with her academics".

Dr. Korana Burke mentions "I had pleasure working with Sameerah when she was an LA in my class. She is endlessly patient with students and is dedicated to helping every student succeed. I heard back many times from my students how Sameerah helped them finally understand some concept they have been struggling with for a long time. In addition to being a great LA, Sameerah is extremely curious and doesn't shy away from a challenge. I wouldn't be surprised if she were featured in many more scientist spotlights in the future".

Dr. Stephanie Dodson speaks highly of Sameerah explaining her strong dedication and passion for learning and teaching math with peers. Professor Dodson says "It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know and work with Sameerah through research. Sameerah tackled the task of investigating how to adapt an agent-based model to incomplete input data; a project that involved model building, coding, trouble-shooting, data analysis, and determining how to quantify model outputs. I was continually impressed by her intuition, enthusiasm to learn new concepts, and her progress. Among the challenges of the past year, Sameerah showed great resilience, endless curiosity, and passion for learning; I am excited to see what her future holds". Sameerah has made countless of great impressions amongst many in the department and always is bright light in the room. Please join us in congratulating Sameerah Helal for being our first ever Student Spotlight!

Be sure to congratulate Sameerah when you see her!