

# Valentina Cvackova

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<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	To obtain an internship in Spring 2024	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island, USA	
	Bachelor of Science in Clinical Neuroscience (B.S.)	May 2024
	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (B.A.)	May 2024
	Minor: Film Media	
	GPA: 3.36	
<b>HONORS</b>	Dean's List (3 semesters)	
<b>AWARDS</b>	Athletic Full Scholarship	
	University Academic Scholarship	
	Awardee for the Spring 2023 Undergraduate Project Grant Application	
	2023 Tennis Second Team All-Atlantic 10 Recognition	

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- **Neuroscience:** Foundations of Neuroscience, Neuroscience Seminar, Neuroethics and Diversity, Neuroscience Careers, Neuroscience Research Methods, Neuroscience Research Methods in Laboratory, Cellular and Molecular Neurosciences, Developmental Neurobiology, Clinical Neuroscience, Experiential Neuroscience, Neuroscience Journal Club
- **Psychology:** General Psychology, Behavior Problems and Personality Disorders, Quantitative Methods in Psychology, The Challenged Brain, Developmental Psychology, Research Methods and Designs in Behavior Science, Introduction to Clinical Psychology, Physiological Psychology, Psychotropic Drugs and Therapy, The Substance-Troubled Person
- **Chemistry:** General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Laboratory for General Chemistry I, Laboratory for General Chemistry II, Introduction to Organic Chemistry
- **Biology:** Principles of Biology I, Principles of Biology II, Principles of Biology in Laboratory I, Principles of Biology in Laboratory II, Human Anatomy and Physiology I, Human Anatomy and Physiology II
- **Others:** Applied Calculus I, Communication Fundamentals, Introduction to Research Writing, General Physics I, Laboratory for General Physics I, Beginning Spanish I, Introductory Statistics
- **Film:** Introduction to Film Media, Film Theory, History of Film I, Documentary Pre-production
- **Planned:** Introductory Medical Microbiology, Herbal Medicines and Functional Food

## FURTHER EDUCATION

Course Brain We Are, 2021

- Introduction to the issue of supplements by Brain We Are

Course Final Cut Pro, 2022

- Udeemy course called The Complete Final Cut Pro X Course Beginner To Intermediate

## **WORK AND INTERNSHIPS EXPERIENCE**

### **Neuroscience Internship at the German Primate Center (DPZ; Deutsches Primatenzentrum GmbH), Göttingen, Germany, May-July 2023**

- Tight cooperation with the University of Göttingen, local Max Planck Institutes, and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Scientific Community
- Cognitive Neurosciences Laboratory (Sensorimotor Group under the leader Professor Dr. Alexander Gail) under the direct supervision of Dr. Neda Shahidi, Ph.D.
- I was preparing the set-ups for the food foraging experiments with the rhesus macaques at the German Primate Center in Göttingen, Germany
- Participated in recording the video-motion sessions
- I was editing the video composition for my supervisor demonstrating the experiment, adding appropriate graphics, sound effects, necessary equations, and music, using Adobe After Effects and Final Cut Pro
- Using an annotations program Jarvis, which was internally provided and created in the German Primate Center to mark body parts (marking full-body models, approximately 12 markers) and demonstrate the movement of the monkeys
- As a volunteer, I participated in the game with another monkey, playing the dyadic decision-task game on the screen and recording the monkey's neural activity by having a neural implant and screening the neural activity in the medial frontal cortex
- I saw the processing and the results of the neural data, and even though I wasn't directly involved in obtaining them as an intern, I got experience with the recordings obtained by the leading scientists I worked with (Dr. Neda Shahidi, Ph.D., and Dr. Sebastian Möller, Ph.D.)
- At the end of my internship, I presented the experience I had gained to the Sensorimotor Group under the German Primate Center
- With my supervisor, Dr. Neda Shahidi, Ph.D., we also decided to submit the final version of the video that we produced to the Video Contest "Film Clip Competition from Everyday Life at DPZ"

### **Neuroscience Internship at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE; Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen) coordinated with Max Planck Institute, Göttingen, Germany, May-July 2023**

- Structure Determination of Proteins Using NMR coordinated with Max Planck Institute (Translational Structural Biology Group under Professor Dr. Markus Zweckstetter) under the direct supervision of Dr. Lisa Marie Ramirez, Ph.D.
- The main goal of my supervisor's group was to test the different compounds with the final goal of finding the most promising medication for Alzheimer's disease
- I worked in the chemical lab, assisting my supervisor with routine chemical procedures such as micropipette or centrifuge use
- Learned how to use the NanoDrop on my own
- I was also using the program GraphPad Prism to plot the aggregates of amyloid (A $\beta$ ) and tau proteins vs. the total number of cells after testing out the proposed compounds in the different concentrations on the mice in collaboration with the researchers in Bonn, Germany

### **Bolt Courier in Bolt Food, Ostrava, Czech Republic, 2022-now**

- A driver in Bolt Food, under the company ProKuryry.cz
- An occasional side job when back in Ostrava

### **ISMM Group, Ostrava, Czech Republic, 2019-now**

- Our main family business (multiple companies, including the engineering production sites and the family-run hotel)
- I have helped in several positions over the years; as a receptionist, a waitress, a cleaner, etc.
- Participated in social media promotion as a video editor or a photographer
- Supplied translations from Czech to English
- Assisted as a copywriter on the company website
- Participated as an observer when company managers interviewed applicants for the job
- As an observer, I was examining some of the applicants in the English

### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

#### **Undergraduate Research Assistant in MCR-Lab, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island, USA, 2023-now**

- Motor Control and Rehabilitation Laboratory (MCR-Lab) under the supervision of Dr. Mariusz P. Furmanek, Ph.D., PT, DPT
- Mapping the current articles and writing the summaries for a future research project about music, rhythm, and neuroscience
- My research proposal, "The Comparative Efficacy of Meditation and Music Therapy on Cognitive, Behavioral, and Motor Function in Patients with Parkinson's Disease," was selected as an awardee for the Spring 2023 Undergraduate Project Grant Application

#### **Undergraduate Teacher Assistant, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island, USA, Spring 2023**

- Undergraduate teacher assistant (UTA) for the undergraduate class Neuroethics and Diversity (NEU 210) for Spring 2023 semester under Dr. Jessica Alber, Ph.D.

#### **Czech language partner, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, Spring 2023**

- In the Spring semester, I started to have one-on-one Czech lessons with one student at Brown University
- Volunteering under the supervision of Professor Masako U. Fidler, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Slavic Studies at Brown University
- In the future, we are planning on organizing Czech-themed events (Czech Movie Night, Czech Week, etc.) for Brown University students

#### **Save The Bay Exploration Center & Aquarium, Newport, Rhode Island, USA, 2021-now**

- Occasional volunteering in the Exploration Center as a tour guide for the aquarium
- In the future, I plan to participate in the beach clean-ups

#### **Au-Pair, Dublin, Ireland, March 2018**

- Babysitting three children in Ireland for ten days
- Doing housework chores
- Fulfilled my childhood dream as I experienced St. Patrick's Day in Ireland

## **FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Book Citáty ("The Quotes"), 2015-now

- Collection of quotes published on the Apple iBooks Store
- One of the most successful books in the free section in the Czech Republic, with around 25 thousand downloads during the years

YouTube channel tennisvideos, 2014-now

- Recording of the international and Czech tennis tournaments
- Videos of young tennis prodigies, such as Coco Gauff, Jannik Sinner or Lorenzo Musetti
- Currently, over 1000 followers

Winning a competition "Fermi Tasks", 2018-2019

- Twice, I have won a 1st place trophy in tasks from experimental physics at the regional level while at high school
- The competition took place at Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, under the Faculty of Science

Arranging my photography and art exhibition called Oči ("The Eyes"), 2018

- I arranged my own photography and art exhibition at our high school, displaying my collection of photos of eyes that I collected over the years
- Due to these reasons, I received the Czech equivalent of the Principal's Award

Public space innovation competition FajnovyProstor in Ostrava, 2020

- Working along with my friend on the design of the dog park
- With our proposal, we proceeded into the semifinal round in our city Ostrava

## **FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS IN TENNIS**

- Actively represented University of Rhode Island in college tennis (Division I)
- Competitively played 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> position on the team, both in the singles and the doubles (teamed-up with Sophie Herrman)
- Multiple times acknowledged as a student-athlete of the week at our university
- After the Spring season in 2023, I received an honor 2023 Tennis Second Team All-Atlantic 10 Recognition
- In the year 2014, we won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Czech Championship U14 in doubles with Radka Buzkova
- In the year 2012, I was ranked 6th in the rankings U12 in the Czech Republic
- In 2012, awarded as a sport athlete of the city Kopřivnice; my former hometown

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Proficient in English and Czech
- Basic knowledge of Spanish and German

## **CERTIFICATES**

- First Certificate in English (FCE), April 2019
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); reached the highest composite score of 97, December 2019
- CITI Training

## **SKILLS**

- MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- iWork (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, iMovie)
- Intermediate knowledge of Final Cut Pro
- Basic knowledge of the SPSS and R statistical programs
- Basic knowledge of GraphPad Prism program
- Basic knowledge of Fiji (ImageJ)
- Basic knowledge of Adobe Illustrator and Adobe After Effects
- Basic knowledge of Canva
- Driving license

## **LAB SKILLS**

- Micropipette and the NanoDrop use
- Heat shock transformation
- DNA extraction and molecular cloning
- Genotyping PCR
- Electrophoresis
- Cell culture handling techniques
- Biochemical assay cell

## **HOBBIES**

- Tennis, skiing, skateboarding, swimming, windsurfing
- Reading, writing, poetry
- Movies, film making, documentaries, music
- Evolution, genetics, ethnology, sociology, philosophy
- Cryptocurrencies, politics, podcasts, economics
- Traveling, Scandinavia, polar regions, marine life, animals