

2024-25 Nevada NASA Space Grant Awardee

Michael Nia is pursuing a major in Computer Science & Engineering with a minor in Digital Interactive Game Design at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Mr. Nia is a former student of the University of Washington (UW), where he was awarded direct admission to the Computer Science major with a full merit-based academic scholarship. With a strong foundation in computer science, Mr. Nia was awarded the 2024 Public Choice Award in the Innovation Competition for Senior Capstone Projects among College of Engineering students at the UNR.

As a software developer intern at the Desert Research Institute (DRI), Mr. Nia has collaborated with a cross-functional research team on interdisciplinary projects. He has designed and developed numerous software and codes using various programming languages including C/C++, C#, JavaScript, JAVA, Python, and LUA. He also undertook several independent projects such as the "Solar System Simulation Project" and "Navy Simulation with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Pathfinding Project."

Mr. Nia is thrilled about receiving his NASA award as he aims to leverage his technical skills in computer sciences to develop advanced AI-based models applied to Earth sciences. Inspired by NASA's missions in exploration and technological advancement, Mr. Nia is enthusiastic to make meaningful contributions to collaborate with the world's leading scientists toward the progress of science and technology, with the potential to positively impact our planet and its inhabitants.