

Blanca Huergo, Research Engineer

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2023 — Present **Senior Research Engineer, Google DeepMind** London, United Kingdom
- Level 5: November 2025 - present.
Level 4: May 2024 - October 2025.
Level 3: July 2023 - April 2024.
- Working on post-training large language models, focusing on coding and tool use.
- Core contributor to a version of Gemini Deep Think that obtained a gold medal in ICPC 2025, the most prestigious university competitive programming contest.
- Core contributor to Gemini Diffusion, a research prototype presented in the 2025 Google I/O keynote, showing how text diffusion can be used to train language models that are 5 times faster than traditional auto-regressive models, while still matching them in quality.
- 2020 — 2024 **Co-founder, chairwoman, Spanish Informatics Olympiad for Girls (OIFem)** Barcelona, Spain
- Co-founded and ran a non-profit for four years, after noticing a huge gender gap in competitive programming. Backed by large tech and banking companies like Amazon or BBVA, our main activity was around informatics Olympiads in Spain, training hundreds of teenage girls every year, and organising events and competitions to create community. Our students have been wildly successful in mixed Olympiads, earning medals at a national and an international level, being admitted to top universities, and being the first all-women team to win HP Codewars Spain, a competition which had never seen a single woman in its winning team. A group of former students now runs the non-profit.
- 2022 — 2022 **Research engineering intern, DeepMind** London, United Kingdom
- Did a Summer internship with the RL team. There, I worked building infrastructure for large-scale runs and got a return offer.
- 2020 — 2020 **Data engineering intern, Empathy.co** Gijón, Spain
- Empathy.co works on the search engines behind the websites of some of the largest retailers. My internship project was an agent that predicted search trends and, focusing on queries with no results, recommended actions for retailers to take.
- 2019 — 2019 **Data scientist, Merkle Spain (Divisadero)** Gijón, Spain
- After winning the 2019 Merkle Divisadero Datathon, I started working in the company, which is a consultancy, as a data scientist. I built an efficient graph data pipeline using PySpark for a large telecom, and I analysed consumer trajectories on insurance websites to advise them on strategy.
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EDUCATION

- 2020 — 2023 **BA Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Oxford** Oxford, United Kingdom
- Completed my studies on a full scholarship awarded by the María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation for high academic achievement.
- Obtained a Distinction (First) in my Preliminary Examinations and graduated with a 2:1.
- Electives: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Computational Complexity, Numerical Analysis, Optimisation for Data Science, Logic and Proof, Probability, Information Theory, Applied Probability (Markov Chains), Lambda Calculus and Types, Logic, and Computer Aided Formal Verification.
- 2021 — 2021 **Get Ahead, Google**
- Invite-only program, focused on competitive programming, for women studying Computer Science in EMEA.

Numerous online courses, Coursera

During high school, I learned about Mathematics and Computer Science via online university courses on platforms such as Coursera and edX, which allowed me to start working in the tech industry from a very young age. I finished over 60 courses, including Stanford's Algorithms Specialization, Andrew Ng's numerous Deep Learning courses, and IBM's Advanced Data Science Specialization.

 PRIZES

- 2023 Inspiring Girls "Stem Inspiration" Prize
Issued by Inspiring Girls (NGO).
- 2023 Prize to the Best Problem in a Regional Informatics Olympiad
Issued by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad.
- 2022 Santander-CIDOB 35 Under 35 List
Issued by Banco Santander, CIDOB.
I was the only undergrad and youngest on the list that year.
- 2021 St Hugh's College Scholarship (First-Class Preliminary Examinations)
Issued by St Hugh's College, University of Oxford.
- 2021 Google Generation Scholarship EMEA
Issued by Google.
- 2020 — 2023 María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Issued the María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation.
- 2020 Silver Medal, Iberoamerican Informatics Olympiad
Issued by the Iberoamerican Informatics Olympiad.
- 2020 Gold Medal, Spanish Informatics Olympiad (Implied Classification to IOI)
Issued by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad.
- 2020 Prize for the Highest-Rated Female Competitor in Spain
Issued by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad.
- 2019 Winner of the Divisadero Datathon (+ Prize for the Best Business Idea)
Issued by Merkle Spain (Divisadero).
- 2019 Prize for the Highest-Rated Female Competitor in Spain
Issued by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad.
- 2019 Prize for the Highest-Rated Python Competitor in Spain
Issued by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad.
- 2019 Winner of the Asturian Informatics Olympiad
Issued by the Asturian Informatics Olympiad.

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING - COACHING EXPERIENCE

2024	III Iberoamerican Bootcamp Online
	Coached the top competitive programmers in Portugal, Spain, Central and South America in preparation for their national competitions and IOI.
2020 — 2024	Spanish Informatics Olympiad for Girls Barcelona, Spain
	During my years running the non-profit, I also took up hundreds of teaching hours, both in a 1-1 setting and for larger groups. I coached students at the highest level, but also enjoyed introductory sessions. My students have been wildly successful, winning many medals in mixed Olympiads, at both a national and an international level.
2021 — 2022	Spanish Informatics Olympiad
	Prepared biweekly training sessions to coach students preparing for IOI.
2021	Udemy Competitive Programming Course
	During my first year of university, I crafted an online course on Udemy teaching competitive programming. This was the first MOOC on the subject diving deeper than an introductory level, and I had over 7500 students from all across the world.

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMING - PROBLEM SETTING EXPERIENCE

2020 — Present	Spanish Informatics Olympiad
	I co-lead the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Informatics Olympiad since July 2025, which is the body in charge of designing the problems for the competition.
	Since 2020, I have been a member of this Committee, which involves designing problems, as well as frequently testing problems prepared by others, and helping make sure the online judge is robust and ready for the competition.
	I am also part of the Verification Committee, which means I act as a liaison between the Olympiad and the Spanish Ministry of Education.
2020 — Present	Spanish Informatics Olympiad for Girls
	I still frequently volunteer in the non-profit that I used to run, designing and preparing problems for their competitions.
2023 — Present	West European Olympiad in Informatics
	I form part of the Scientific Committee of the WEOI, which means I frequently design or test problems for the competition.
2023	Madrid Informatics Olympiad
	I helped set up the first edition of the regional Madrid Informatics Olympiad where they changed the format to follow the standard set by the Spanish Informatics Olympiad. I designed one of the problems (which got a national award for being the most creative problem at a regional olympiad that year) and tested the rest of them.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION SCORES

International A-Levels

Obtained six A*'s on Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Economics and Spanish.

I scored full marks in seven of the papers (Core Mathematics 1, Core Mathematics 2, Mechanics 2, Statistics 2, Physics 1, Physics 2, Economics 3).

EBAU (Spanish University Admissions Score)

Full score of 14/14 on the Spanish EBAU, the examination used for selecting students to enter Spanish universities. This score would have granted automatic admission to any course at any public university in Spain. My grade comes from a combination of my Sixth Form/Bachillerato average (10.0) and the recognition of my Mathematics and Physics International A Levels (2 A*'s) for the 4 extra points. Grade awarded by the "Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)".