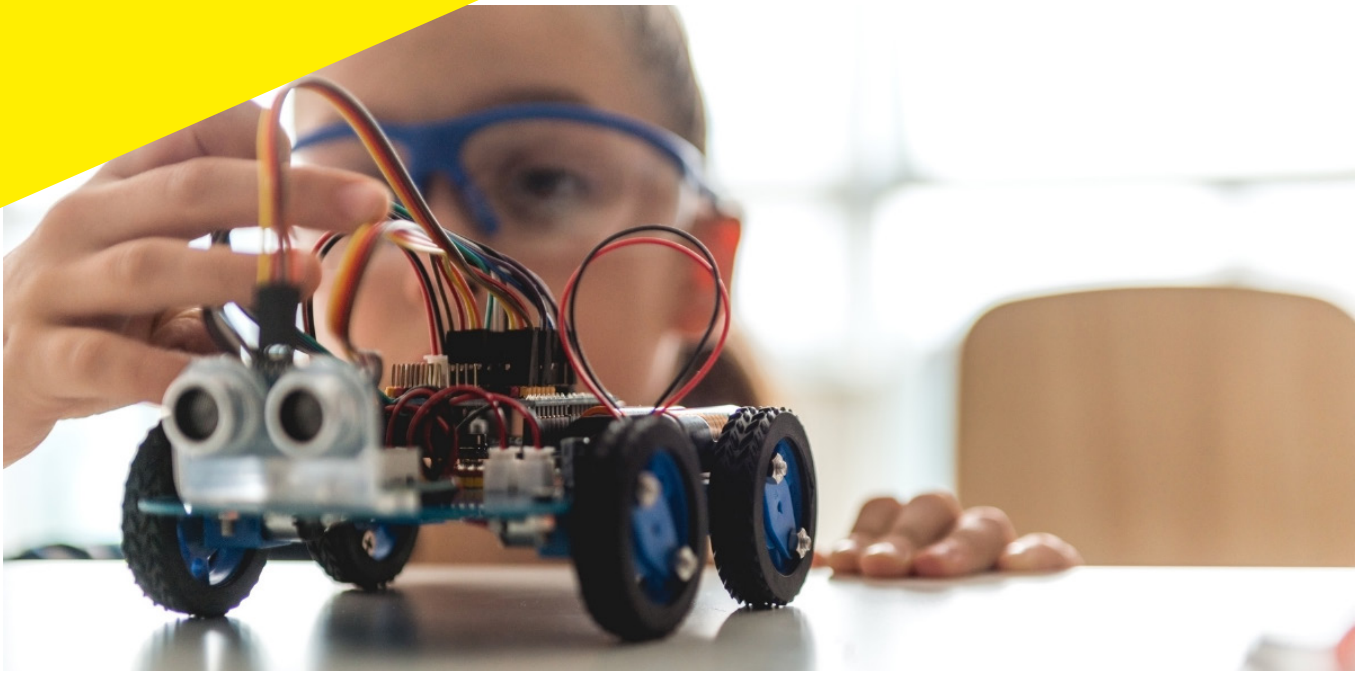
VEC VIRTUAL ENGINEERING CENTRE / UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



VEC intern Blanca Quintana Galera reflects on her impactful time at the VEC exploring digital twins and robotics

Name: Blanca Quintana Galera.

Qualifications: MEng in Industrial Engineering from the University of Castilla-La Mancha in 2014 and a Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering in 2018.

Interests: I enjoy everything related to computer vision and robotics.

During your studies, what made you want to endure an internship programme?

First of all, the opportunity to expand my learning. I also found it very exciting, learning about new subjects and experiencing the different ways of working within other environments. Moreover, I think it is an experience that not only adds a lot of value to your CV, but also gives you a lot of values as a person.

What attracted you to the Virtual Engineering Centre (VEC)?

During my stay at VEC, I was working as a postdoctoral researcher in the 3D Visual Computing and Robotics Lab (3DVCR) research group at the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

I was first introduced to VEC by a member of the VEC Industrial Digitalisation team, who was a member of the examining board for my doctoral thesis. They told me about their experiences and the types of work the VEC were doing. After this conversation, I started to investigate the VEC, and I found that they were doing some really interesting work. I was later connected with the rest of the VEC team, and after a meeting with them, they talked to me about the different possibilities to continue my research there.

What did you want to gain from this experience?

I wanted to learn more about digital twins, especially any work relating to buildings.

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What did you end up doing at the Virtual Engineering Centre?

I worked in the laboratory for robotics and autonomous systems, focusing on how to best monitor buildings using a robot, called Loomo.

I also worked within a real working environment amongst two different technical teams whilst being supported by the commercial engagement teams, which only widened my awareness and knowledge of the working business model and a typical day-to-day life of a project engineer.

Did you learn anything suprising during your stay at the Virtual Engineeirng Centre?

My experience was more related to research, so I learned a lot about the working business model and what it's like to work directly for industry.

What skills did you learn and develop during your internship?

I learnt a lot about robotics and autonomous systems, working in large teams, new technologies and how these are applied to solve real industry problems.

What are your ambitions for the future?

Currently, I'm working as Assistant Professor at the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department in the National University of Distance Education (UNED) in Spain.

I would like to continue my research on topics related to computer vision, robotics, and new technologies applied to education.

What advice would you offer to other students who are considering undertaking an internship?

Definitely go for it and do not let fears stand as a barrier!

If you are interested in taking the next step in your digital career and are keen to find out more about how the VEC can support you through our exciting internship programme, speak to our friendly team today:

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We are the UK's leading digital innovation centre - find out how we can help your business: vec@liv.ac.uk

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