

Dino Claro

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Education

MSc Robotics, Systems and Control

ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Expected Mar 2027

2025 – Present

BSc (Eng) Mechanical & Mechatronic Engineering

University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa

GPA: 91.76 / Faculty Rank: 1st

2020 – 2023

Awards: ECSA Medal of Merit (2023), Bain Merit Awards (2021, 2022)

National Senior Certificate

King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, South Africa

Average: 89.0 / Grade Rank: 3rd

2015 – 2019

Experience

African Robotics Unit: *Research Internship*

Cape Town

January 2025 – August 2025

- A research lab within the UCT Electrical Engineering Department, seeking to solve robotics challenges through a uniquely African perspective.
- Designed and manufactured a 3-DOF (roll, yaw, pitch) passively actuated spine for the realisation of a robot-physical model of the cheetah's hindquarters by attaching the spine to an actuated tail and bipedal robot known as Baleka.

MechatronicSystems.Group: *Vacation Work*

Cape Town

July 2023

- Research unit within the UCT Mechanical Engineering Department, focusing on control systems, system identification, and embedded hardware.
- Investigated the potential of the Duckiebot robot as a teaching and project platform for undergraduate students by implementing simple locomotion control policies.

S-Plane: *Embedded Systems Internship*

Cape Town

December 2022

- S-Plane specialises in delivering automation solutions for aircraft systems.
- Developed a synthesizable VHDL model of a popular ADC and a Python package for parsing C++ code.

Leadership & Activities

UCT Engineering Department Tutor

- Mechanical Engineering Department tutor for second-year Solid Mechanics, third-year Control Systems, and fourth-year Vibrations.

UCT Residence Committee: IT Representative

February – November 2021

- Managed minor issues with the residence's computers and Wi-Fi, and was responsible for reporting technical issues for resolution.

Scholarships

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarship

2023

- Awarded to students in the final two years of undergraduate study who show evidence of high intellectual ability and commitment to achieving excellence in engineering. Each award is valued at R35,000.

EBE Faculty Scholarship

2023, 2022

- Awarded to the student with the highest GPA in their year within the UCT Engineering & Built Environment Faculty. Each award is valued at R40,000.

ARM Brightsparks

2023, 2022

- Bursary awarded by African Rainbow Minerals Mining Company to South African undergraduate engineering students, covering full tuition, accommodation, and textbooks.

Short Courses

HarvardX: CS50

2024

- Introduction to computer science covering foundational programming concepts, algorithms, and problem-solving using C, Python, and web development.

Dale Carnegie – Generation.Next

2019

- World-renowned course aimed at developing leadership and communication skills in high school students.

Gordon Institute of Business Science – Spirit of the Youth

2018

- Provides high-impact learners with a platform to articulate their vision for South Africa, engaging in dialogues with policymakers and peers on crucial issues.

Skills & Interests

Coding languages and software: SolidWorks, MATLAB, C, Python, ROS

Technical interests: Soft robotics design and simulation, bio-inspired robotics, robotic control

Languages: English (home language), Portuguese (intermediate), Afrikaans (intermediate)

Personal interests: Mountaineering, hiking, camping, cooking