

UW ECE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANDREW WOLFRAM, M.S.

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Andrew Wolfram
M.S. Electrical Engineering, 2020
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Andrew's research interests pertain to optoelectronics and communication within ECE. Andrew's focus is derived from the aspect of building devices, with the foundation for his interests coming from his Antennas course. "One of my most memorable moments so far is building a 2.4 GHz Yagi antenna and having the resonant frequency on the spectrum analyzer match what was modeled in the software." He is pursuing research opportunities in optics, expressing a desire to work on free space optical communication systems after graduation. Andrew was initially attracted to the UW ECE program for its geographic location in the Pacific Northwest and its interdisciplinary nature, but the tipping point in his decision to enroll was Graduate Adviser Brenda Larson. During their communications before he enrolled, Andrew says, "Brenda was supportive and encouraging. She didn't downplay the difficulty of switching careers, but helped me feel welcome at the UW. She made a world of difference and I appreciate her genuine care for the students."

Andrew reminisces on his experience coming back to school after a four-year stint as a software engineer, suggesting to "Pursue your own interests, not what you think you should be interested in because of societal pressure or what the majority of people are doing. Don't get stuck, be willing to adapt while you continue to think critically about what you truly enjoy."

His team Vulture Aviation placed first in the 2019 International Space Settlement Design Competition held at the UW. He also previously participated in a competition to send a message to the Voyager 1 spacecraft.