

# Niyanta Sookraj

nzs0087@auburn.edu | (+1) 334 524 9202 | [www.linkedin.com/in/niyantasookraj](https://www.linkedin.com/in/niyantasookraj)

## EDUCATION

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### PhD in Business, Business Analytics and Information Systems

Auburn University, Auburn, AL

May 2027

GPA: - /4.0

- Competitively awarded a full graduate assistantship

### Master of Business Administration

Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Dec 2022

GPA: 4.0/4.0

- Competitively awarded a full graduate assistantship
- Best Q&A Individual Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team Award at the SEC MBA Case Competition sponsored by Valvoline, which focused on the future of sustainability in the passenger car motor oil industry
- Best Project award in the Integrated Business Project & Case Analysis course, which was a consulting case that dealt with real clients

### BSc. Mechanical Engineering (Cum Laude)

University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, South Africa

Dec 2017

GPA: 4.0/4.0 (Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> place)

- Engineered a low head water turbine designed to give rural communities better access to water. This project was modelled on both AutoCAD and Solid Works and included a finite element and computational fluid dynamics analysis.
- Golden Key International Honor Society awarded for academic excellence
- Dean's Honor List
- WomEng Fellow – awarded to sixty female engineers across the country

## EXPERIENCE

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### Auburn University | Alabama, USA

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant

Aug 2023 – Present

- Collaborating with professors on research projects that currently involve cybersecurity and financial risk
- Grading assignments and hosting office hours for graduate students taking a Systems Analysis and Design Course

### Auburn University | Alabama, USA

Financial Planning and Analysis Specialist

Jan 2023 – Aug 2023

- Employed Anaplan to build and test financial models including a tuition projection model and an HR data model
- Automated financial reports for executive management including the president's office
- Built applications within the Anaplan UX for quarterly and annual budget reports
- Obtained a Level 1 Anaplan Model Building Certificate

### Auburn University | Alabama, USA

Graduate Assistant

Aug 2021 – Dec 2022

- Supported the Graduate Programs Team, reporting to the Executive Director of Full-Time and Online MBA programs
- Assisted in event planning, resource management, program administration, and project development

### Vulcan Materials Company | Alabama, USA

Data Science Intern in Internal Audit

Jun 2022 – Aug 2022

- Employed the agile methodology using JIRA to develop, assess, and prioritize tasks
- Leveraged SQL, Alteryx, and Alteryx Gallery to create applications that automated the testing of internal audit controls
- Researched the technical functionality of Alteryx and built a business case for enterprise-wide adoption that was approved by the CIO
- Used data analytics and data engineering to troubleshoot bugs and other technical issues
- Tested SOX controls in relation to risk management, for compliance with standards across approximately ten different applications

### Allan Gray | Cape Town, South Africa

Business Analyst in Client Experience Solutions Team

May 2021 – Jul 2021

- Employed SCRUM methodology with JIRA to develop, assess, prioritize, and facilitate business solutions proposals
- Collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to launch a new customer service channel by facilitating change management and generating training documents
- Performed front-end and back-end testing within the staging and production environments for the new servicing channel

- Managed the servicing, technical, and operational implications of a new business wide product launch that required collaboration with several high functioning, multidisciplinary teams

*Business Analyst in Voice of Customer (VoC) Team*

Aug 2019 – May 2021

- Analyzed and generated complex reports for the retail executive committee and other retail departments, using advanced MS Excel and business intelligence/data visualization tools such as PowerBI and Yellowfin, to identify areas for process improvement
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams on projects that successfully increased the servicing metric *from 85% to 90%*, by identifying stress areas and rolling out solutions to mitigate these factors while remaining within the allocated budget
- Generated personalized, comprehensive coaching packs to team leaders to assist with developing consultants by identifying opportunities to improve process effectiveness
- Empowered the Voice of the Employee stream by providing employees with an innovative platform (Pulse) to relay their experiences, concerns, and recommendations
- Pulse was used to develop, mentor, and guide talent within the company by focusing on mental and physical wellbeing
- Created, deployed, and wrote requirements for client surveys that called for the integration of data from Allan Gray APIs
- Developed creative automated reports from large data sets using SQL and R-Script

*Allan Gray Client/Advisor Service Consultant*

Jan 2018 – Jul 2019

- Achieved an average Net Promoter Score of above *95%*, with the highest scores in quality of customer service
- Competitively awarded *Top Performing Team* in three quarters
- Consulted with a large cohort of direct clients, trusts, companies, organizations as well as independent financial advisers with significant client bases, as an investment consultant, aiding with a wide range of complex issues and concerns, which included handling service recovery cases
- Supported newer consultants entering the environment with their training and product knowledge to equip them with the tools needed to reach their proficiencies faster

**Skills**

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|---------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Advanced MS Excel | • AutoCAD  | • SolidWorks         | • PowerPoint         |
| • Alteryx           | • SQL      | • SurveyMonkey       | • SCRUM methodology  |
| • Power BI          | • Tableau  | • Data Visualization | • JIRA               |
| • Anaplan           | • R-Script | • Python             | • Financial Modeling |

**Associations**

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**Women in Business**

2021 – Present

- Interact with other women in the business school to upskill, empower, and support each other

**National Association of Black Accountants**

2021 – Present

- Interact with students in minority groups for support and exposure to opportunities