

Report on Grace Hopper Celebration 2023: A Transformative Experience

By: Tara Toufighi

1. Overall Experience and Gratitude:

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration 2023 alongside my cohort. The friendship within our group was remarkable, and we shared valuable insights and experiences.

2. Size and Challenge:

Attending GHC in person for the first time was both exciting and, admittedly, a bit overwhelming. With a massive gathering of over 30,000 attendees, standing out in a sea of similarly educated and experienced individuals initially felt challenging.

3. Networking and Career Opportunities:

One of the highlights was meeting representatives from amazing companies, some I wouldn't usually have the chance to connect with. Engaging with recruiters and company staff allowed me to discuss crucial aspects like work-life balance, company mission and projects. I even got the opportunity to be included in their databases for potential future opportunities.

Insights from Conversations:

- Learned about rotational programs for new grads, sparking thoughts about my post-graduation job preferences.
- Explored the importance of technical skills and clear project descriptions, gaining valuable industry perspectives.
- Enhanced networking skills by tailoring pitches not just to personalities but also specific job roles.

4. Learning and Workshops:

I attended a fascinating workshop by Goldman Sachs, delving into a data analysis project using their Legend Platform. The Lead with Data session provided valuable insights into sustainability.

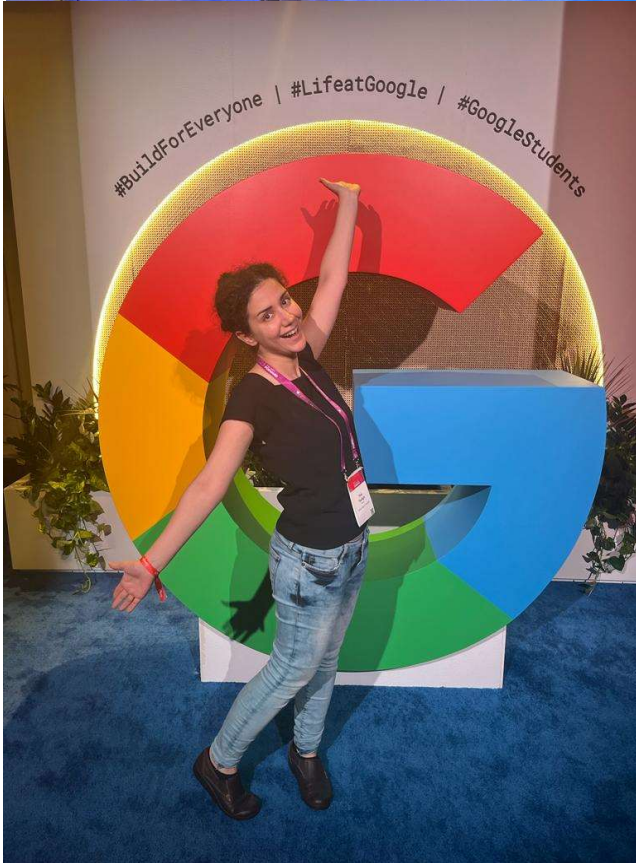
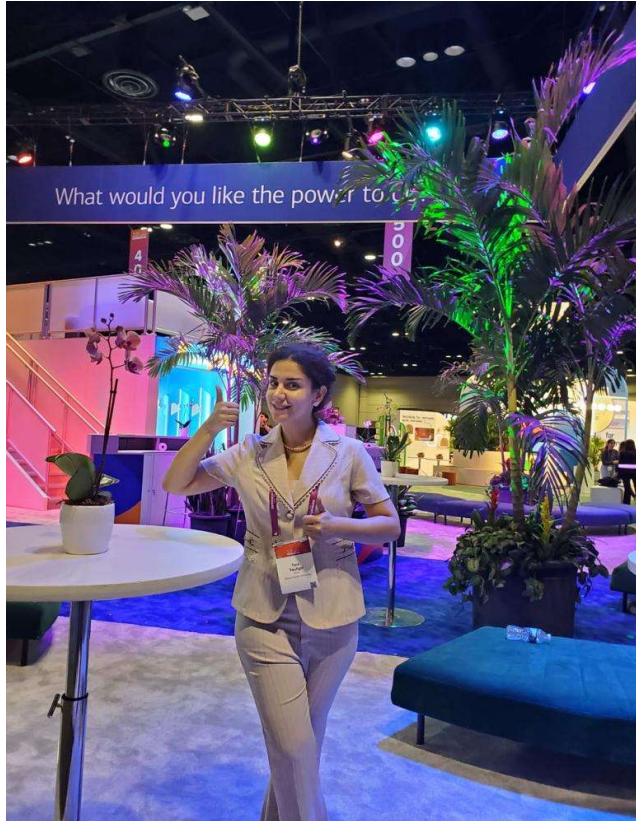
I enjoyed attending the “your real life influence challenge”, they talked about how being impactful counts as an asset.

5. Community Connections:

Connecting with fellow Iranian students and computer science professionals at the community lounge added a meaningful cultural touch to the experience.

6. Advice for Future Attendees:

- Prioritize your physical and mental well-being
- Be true to yourself; don't follow the herd for the sake of a job. Take breaks when needed to avoid burnout, get a massage, and prioritize what's best for you.
- Connect with others in lines or at the hotel to share experiences.
- Research companies beforehand to align with your interests.
- Submit resumes early and even apply before the event.
- Smile, say hi, and start making connections early (start your day early too)
- Talk to as many companies as possible; you never know what might appeal to you.
- Have confidence, start conversations, and enjoy connecting with people.
- Inquire about after parties for additional networking opportunities.
- Believe in yourself, ask for the best, and don't compromise on your values.
- Have fun!





The Currencies of Influence



Positional
Power

+



Credibility &
Expertise

+



Relationships

+



Vision

AMITY
GRACE
CELEB

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Your real life
influence
challenge.

Workbook:
[Bit.ly/GHC23-Influence](https://bit.ly/GHC23-Influence)

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