Kata Alilovic
Undergraduate student in Biomedical Engineering
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering

Kata Alilovic is 4th year Biomedical Engineering student at the University of Florida specializing in Biomaterials. She was born and raised in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Kata came to UF as a UWC Davis Scholar in Fall 2017 after graduating from United World College in Mostar.

Driven by curiosity in science, Kata got involved in research at UF. Her first research position was in Dr. Maurice Swanson's lab within the College of Medicine where she worked on a genetics-based project. Currently, she is an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Christine Schmidt's lab, where she is working on developing natural-based bio-inks for 3D Tissue Engineering. Kata's research efforts were recognized, and she was selected to be a University Scholar for the 2020-2021 year and was awarded a Fernandez Family Scholarship. She presented her project at BMES and ABRCMS Annual Conferences. Kata's research experience also includes a summer undergraduate research project at Purdue University, where she worked with Dr. Arezoo Ardekani on computational modeling of proteins. Kata also participated in weekly online professional development workshops and seminars at the UC San Diego Zoom Research Experience for Undergraduates.

Outside of the classroom, Kata has been involved with the Phi Sigma Rho Engineering Sorority where she served as Philanthropy Chair. Along with other sorority members, she has been volunteering in the Gainesville community. As a student who showed academic and research excellence, Kata was selected to become a part of the B.MEntor organization within the Biomedical Engineering Department. B.MEntor is a group of upper-level students that work together with the Undergraduate Coordinator and Undergraduate Advisor to provide guidance to lower-level students. As a B.MEntor, she had the opportunity to mentor other students. Kata has also been involved with the Balkan Student Association to promote Balkan culture, showcasing traditional dances and other aspects of Balkan culture.

Kata will be earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering in May of 2021. She plans to further her studies with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering and hopes to apply her research skills to develop new technologies and therapeutics that will advance the health of others.