



Ana HUAMAN QUISPE

Home Country
Peru

Degree
PhD in Robotics

Expertise
Mechatronics Engineering

Research Focus
Planning Algorithms for Robotics

Host University
Georgia Institute of Technology,
United States

Fellowship Awarded
2011

Ana Huaman Quispe was born in Lima, Peru, in a large family composed of one older sister, five step-sisters and two step-brothers. She is the first member of her family ever to graduate from university.

Ana has won many academic awards and was twice a silver medalist in Peru's National Mathematics and Chemistry Olympiads. In 2009, she took a Bachelor's degree in Mechatronics Engineering at the National University of Engineering in Lima, and the same year was the recipient of one of the Fulbright Commission's prestigious Opportunity Grants scholarships. In 2010, she won a KAUST Fellowship to pursue a Master's degree in Computing in Saudi Arabia, but opted to study towards her PhD at the Georgia Institute of Technology instead.

The goal of Ana's doctoral research is to develop planning algorithms that will enable robots to perform human tasks autonomously with intelligent behaviors. In high-risk environments such as mining, mineralogy and metallurgy, which are among the main economic activities of Peru, devising low-cost robotic systems to carry out tasks currently performed by badly underpaid workers would have a huge impact and save many lives.

Peru is a developing country with an economy based mainly on exportation of mineral and agricultural products. Most of its farmers live in poverty and don't have access to a decent education. Ana would like to play an active part in changing all that – something that can only be achieved, she believes, through technology and education. Industry and education must work together, and for that reason, Ana plans to return to Peru after completing her research and take up a teaching position at her alma mater.