Alessandro Acuna

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

☎ +39 3277671048 | ✉ alessan.acunaguardia@gmail.com | in aleacuna

Summary

Mechanical Engineer passionate about the **aerospace** and industries, specialized in the development of **structural components** from concept design to advanced finite element validation. Through my Master's focus on **Mechanical Design & Modelling**, I could gain experience in CAD, FEA, and the behaviour of composite materials.
I am currently working at Airbus under a fixed-term contract as intern that concludes in December 2025. As such, I am looking for a new role as a **Structural Engineer** where I can offer lightweight, high-performance design solutions for essential structures.

Experience

AIRBUS
Madrid, Spain

STRUCTURAL DESIGN & ANALYSIS ENGINEER (PLANT ENGINEERING TEAM)
Jan. 2025 – Present

- Developed and assessed structural repair solutions for composite and metallic components.
- Created component drawings for the A350 Horizontal Tail Plane (HTP) and rear fuselage section (Section 19) using CATIA V5.
- Acted as the Design Office interface in a production environment, ensuring structural integrity and compliance with design requirements.
- Developed of numerical models and performed explicit simulations for the analysis of composite material behaviour and damage mechanisms.

DLR (German Aerospace Center)
Stuttgart, Germany

MASTER THESIS - R&D ENGINEER
Mar. 2024 – Dec. 2024

- The thesis work is part of the EU-funded project r-LightBioCom, aimed at developing sustainable high-performance composites.
- Conducted quasi-static and dynamic compression tests to characterise cores of different materials and structures (honeycomb and foam).
- Developed KPIs to evaluate cores, integrating Life Cycle Assessment results from OpenLCA and mechanical performance obtained from tests.
- Implemented and calibrated multiple material models (MAT cards) in LS-DYNA based on experimental data.
- Validated the numerical model through comparison with experimental test results.
- Created customized material cards for use in FEM simulations involving impact and energy absorption scenarios.

UniBo Motorsport Official Racing Team of the University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy

STRESS AND DESIGN ENGINEER
Oct. 2021 – Sep. 2023

- Design and Stress Analysis vehicle components, including monocoque moulds, dashboard support and belt attachments.
- FEM Analysis to evaluate structural integrity and performance of the chassis and safety-critical components.

D.V.P. Vacuum Technology
Bologna, Italy

BACHELOR THESIS – R&D ENGINEER
Jul. 2022 – Sep. 2022

- Conducted experimental campaigns to measure flow rates and pressure drops across various turbines and control valves.
- Developed numerical performance maps for vacuum control valves in GT-Suite.
- Processed and analysed experimental data to validate the numerical models.

CPC Group
Modena, Italy

COMPOSITE LAMINATOR
Feb. 2022 - Apr. 2022

- Manufactured CFRP moulds and a monocoque chassis, ensuring high-precision lamination processes.

Education

Master's Degree in Composite Materials AIRBUS Programme
Madrid, Spain

UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID
Oct. 2024 – Jun. 2025

- Design of Advanced Composite Structures
- Numerical Simulation Techniques on Abaqus Lab
- Analysis of Advanced Composite Structures
- Applications for Space Structures

Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Minor: Mechanical Design and Modelling
Bologna, Italy

UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
Oct. 2022 – Dec. 2025/Mar. 2026

- Chassis and Body Design and Manufacturing
- CAD of Surfaces Lab
- CAD of Mechanical Structures
- Processes and Manufacturing Methods for Product Development

Erasmus+ Aerospace Engineering   *Stuttgart, Germany*
UNIVERSITÄT STUTTGART   *Sep. 2023 – Feb. 2024*
- Computational Dynamics for Robotics: Matlab and Simulink Multibody
- Computational Mechanics of Structures
- Advanced Finite Element Technology

Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering   *Bologna, Italy*
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA   *Sep. 2019 – Oct. 2022*

University Projects

Structural Analysis of Stringer-Stiffened Composite Aircraft Panels   *Madrid, Spain*
UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID   *Feb. 2025 – May. 2025*
Evaluated damage tolerance and buckling analysis of composite aircraft panels reinforced with stringers. Designed optimized laminate stacking sequences for skin and stringers, ensuring compliance with strain and buckling requirements. Focused on pre-sizing, local and global buckling behaviour, and orthotropic material performance under compressive and shear loads.

Numerical Simulation of Composite Laminates under Loading   *Madrid, Spain*
UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID   *Jan. 2025 – Mar. 2025*
Conducted a finite element analysis in Abaqus on a composite laminate subjected to displacement, applying the Hashin failure criteria to track ply failure. Used lamination theory to generate stress-strain curves and study damage evolution and failure mechanisms under both compressive and tensile displacement, comparing outcomes for the two loading conditions.

Design of a Rear Fuselage Panel   *Madrid, Spain*
UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID   *Jan. 2024 – Mar. 2024*
Designed a Section 19 module composed of two stringers, skin, frame, reinforcement, and clip, defining laminates and tolerances in accordance with metallic and composite material specifications. Created 3D CAD models in CATIA V5 for individual components and the overall assembly, and produced detailed drawings for each component, ensuring compliance with industry standards and tolerances.

Design of a Motorbike Handlebar Bracket   *Bologna, Italy*
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA   *Sep. 2024 – Dec. 2024*
Designed and refined a motorcycle handlebar bracket through topological optimization, then performed static and fatigue analysis via finite element methods in Ansys. Additionally, carried out an analytical verification following VDI 2230 for bolted joints and assessed fatigue life using the Goodman diagram.

Structural Analysis of a Drone   *Bologna, Italy*
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA   *Feb. 2023 – Jun. 2023*
Developed the fuselage of a hybrid drone in composite materials according to normative. Defined a laminate and optimized thickness to minimize weight. Conducted harmonic and impact FEM analysis in Ansys.

Skills

CAD Software	Siemens NX, CATIA V5, PTC Creo
FEA Software	Ansys, Abaqus, Hypermesh/Nastran (Solver), GT-Suite
Programming	Python (including pandas, matplotlib, pycatia)
Data Analysis	Microsoft Excel, Python (pandas, matplotlib)
Soft Skills	Ability to Work in a Team, Adaptability, Creative Problem Solving

Languages

English	Fluent (C1)
Spanish	Fluent (C2)
Italian	Native
German	Basic (A1)