Christopher Dillon, PhD

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EXPERIENCE

Nexus Brands Group, Ballymoney — *European Data Scientist*

April 2023 - Present

I moved from Christies to their parent company, the Nexus Brands Group in April 2023 in order to build and enhance the data function across the entire European division of Nexus. Nexus own a number of professional brands across the tattoo, beauty and pet grooming industries, including Barber DTS, Nouveau HD Beauty, and Christies Direct. As the European Data Scientist, I'm responsible for building a data warehouse and then delivering reporting and data science insight across all European brands, with the same goals to deliver data science insight by leveraging all streams of data, and foster stakeholder engagement. This is a continuation of my work at Christies, now working across a wider range of industries and with data from a diverse range of sources to deliver a consistent report structure accounting for the requirements of each distinct businesses.

Christies Direct, Ballymoney — *Data Scientist*

May 2022- April 2023

Christies Direct are one of the largest pet-grooming supply companies in the world. I joined Christies in 2022 to build a Data Science function within the company, delivering data science insight by leveraging all streams of data. This involved working with stakeholders across all levels and roles within the company, to empower them with the insight to take data driven decisions. I also began working with data from our sister company, Transgroom during my time at Christies. I created a reporting structure which brought together all the distinct data sets in each company together into a cohesive reporting format, allowing for direct comparison between businesses. My work in building this reporting function led to an internal promotion to the role of European Data Scientist, working for Christies' parent company, the Nexus Brands Group.

Queen's University Belfast, Belfast — *Research Fellow*

January 2022- April 2022

During a four month contract I worked on further refining bespoke image feature recognition software for Randox Laboratories. This involved developing code to address the challenges of new biochip designs, and working with biomedical colleagues to ensure their design specifications were met. As in my PhD, this involved the creation of technical documents and presentations to describe the operation of the feature recognition software. The coding was primarily focused on IDL.

Queen's University Belfast, Belfast — *Physics PhD*

September 2017- February 2022

My PhD project title was "Observations and Modelling of Intensity Time series for Biomedical and Astrophysical Applications". This PhD was a joint venture between Queen's University Belfast, and Randox Laboratories to develop cutting-edge statistical techniques with application in astrophysical and biomedical analysis. During the PhD I developed very strong data analysis skills, primarily through the development of algorithms for the large-scale statistical analysis and modelling of extremely challenging below-noise-floor signals, which were applied to astrophysical and to industrial biomedical datasets. My development and application of statistical techniques led me to novel discoveries of stellar nanoflares, which hold the potential to answer key questions about the nature of flaring in stars. Applying those same techniques to biomedical data allowed for the development of

SKILLS

Six years of programming experience, primarily in IDL, Python (including Pandas), and SQL

Experience with version control, and git.

Six years of cutting edge Data science, analysis and visualisation skills

Extremely strong numeracy skills

Extensive experience with oral and written communication of highly technical results

Extensive team working skills, developed through collaboration with Industrial partners

AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS

Inspiring Leaders Award. Leadership course accredited by DegreePlus - Training provided in how to be an effective leader.

Lead Mentor in Physics at QUB

I was made the head of the peer mentor scheme within the school of Physics, where my responsibilities included facilitating the mentoring of 100 students by 14 mentors, organising events for this group, and generally ensuring the smooth running

cutting-edge noise suppression and dynamic range software. I also created bespoke image feature recognition software for industry biomedical use. This recognition software identifies key features within an image in around a second, and has led to a 98.8% reduction in downstream processing times (a saving of over 600 seconds), forming a key component of a data analysis pipeline. These results highlight the direct applications of my astrophysical data analysis skills to industrial needs. Written and spoken communication skills were extensively developed, through academic publications, annotated code pipelines, and industrial technical documents, as well as presenting at numerous conferences, workshops and catchup meetings with industry partners. The synthesis of industry and academic experience has allowed me to develop excellent communication skills, and the opportunity to collaborate with biomedical colleagues from a range of different skill-sets and job-roles. I developed extensive coding experience, primarily working in IDL, as well as Python.

Seagate, Springtown — *Engineering Intern*

June 2015-September 2015 & June 2016-September 2016

Role required leading an investigation into a manufacturing defect. Required strong interpersonal skills, in order to interact with team members and deliver the changes required. Emphasis on presenting findings to management, requiring confidence and strong presentation skills. Developed my personal responsibility, as I undertook self directed tasks to solve this manufacturing problem.

EDUCATION

Queen's University Belfast, Belfast — *Physics MSci*

September 2013 - June 2017

I attained a First class Honor in my degree. Studying Physics has taught me how to work methodically, toward any goal, whether it be writing a lab report or studying for an exam. This methodical problem solving ability combined with rigorous discipline allowed me to excel in this degree, and those same skills transfer to other areas. Naturally, there was a strong development of my numeracy and IT skills.

There was also a significant emphasis on ‘soft skills’ of presentation and collaboration. I am able to work cohesively within a team, under management and also direct teams.

St Columb’s College, Derry/ Londonderry

September 2006 - June 2013

GCSE - *5A*’s* and *6A’s*, including *A** in English Language and Maths

A Level -
Chemistry -*A* **English Literature** -*A* **Maths** -*A* **Physics** -*A*

of the scheme

John McDaid Memorial Prize
Awarded by St Columb’s College to a Student for making an outstanding contribution to College life, over a range of disciplines