

Dear software team,

My name is Lex and I would like to be considered for the Front End Developer role at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

I first became aware of the foundation whilst studying at Founders & Coders. I was intrigued and then inspired by my first encounter with the concept of the circular economy. Later I would see the foundation mentioned regularly at my place of work, due to Arup being a partner. As somebody who cares passionately about the environment, I was especially excited to be informed of this current vacancy.

In Arup's agile software team I worked on dozens of projects using a variety of technology stacks, for both internal and external clients. Most projects involved either React (my personal preference) or Angular. Many included the use of mapping libraries and some included plotting libraries such as D3. The lack of a fixed tech stack meant deciding upon and learning a variety of front and back end technologies; whatever we deemed necessary to meet the bespoke requirements of the project.

As an assistant consultant my role included communicating with clients to understand their requirements, both with and without our UX team (dependent upon budget/availability), and to work out what it was, if anything, their users actually needed. As our UX capability developed we incorporated design thinking practices such as defining problem statements, rapid prototyping and user testing. I often participated in these processes and I believe this has made me a more empathetic developer who can work well with a design team or make informed decisions should they be unavailable.

One of the most rewarding achievements during my time at Arup was that, upon leaving, my team was finally embracing the need to consider accessibility across all of it's future applications. Whilst very much a work in progress it made the many conversations, and the feeding back of information I'd gained from conferences, meet ups, and self-learning, often in the face of resistance, worth it. By the time I left, the team were partaking in weekly accessibility meetings and in my last project we were looking at accessibility and running audits during every pull request. I feel I still have much to learn in this area, but it is something I am passionate about. I would love to work somewhere that encourages developers to meet high accessibility standards and puts the needs of the user at the fore of all stages of development.

I am very inspired by the prospect of working for the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a charity with a strong mission to enact real economic, environmental and societal change and a place where I could work with passionate people whilst continuing to improve my front-end development skills.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you,

Lex

LEX DEFOE

PERSONAL PROFILE

I'm a JavaScript developer who loves React, good UX and data visualisation. I am passionate about usability, accessibility and learning new things.

I'd like to work somewhere i can continue to hone my skills and am hoping to join an organisation that uses technology to make the world better place.

SKILLS

JAVASCRIPT
HTML, CSS, SCSS
REACT
REDUX
ANGULAR
NGRX
D3
GATSBY.JS
NODE
EXPRESS
LOOPBACK
POSTGRESQL
LEAFLET, REACT-LEAFLET
AWS
HEROKU
GIT, GITHUB, BIT BUCKET, JIRA
TRAVIS CI, JEST

BASIC PHOTOSHOP, ILLUSTRATOR
XD, FIGMA, INVSION

CONTACT DETAILS

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RELEVANT CAREER HISTORY

Arup

Software Developer | June 2018 - Aug 2020

- Assistant Consultant in the Advanced Digital Engineering software team.
- Building numerous data-driven web applications in React & Angular.
- Requirements gathering and working closely with the UI/UX team members to define and test user needs.
- Project domains included the built & natural environment, transport & cities.

Example Projects (Arup)

FRANK Water (2020) - Helping to scope and build a web application for school children. (React)

Undisclosed (2019) - A complex mapping tool allowing participating parties to calculate the optimal placement of transport infrastructure. (Angular, D3)

ExoFlags (2019) - A team side-project, made in our own time. We used NASA and Caltech data to auto-generate visual identities for newly discovered planets beyond our solar system. Long-listed at the Information is Beautiful Awards. (React, D3)

Wild West End (2018 - 2019) - One of my very first projects at Arup involved updating the survey data and map filters for this public-facing legacy application. (jQuery, leaflet, WP)

EDUCATION

Founders & Coders

Fullstack Web Development Bootcamp | Oct 2017 - Feb 2018

A free, competitive bootcamp with an emphasis on test-driven development, accessibility, pair-programming, agile methodologies, design thinking and tech for good

University of East Anglia - Film & American Studies, BA, 2.1

Open College of the Arts - Graphic Design: Key Concepts 1

The Open University - Various Math & Natural Science certs.

[See github CV](#)

ALRA - Postgraduate Acting Diploma

RECENT SELF LEARNING

Interaction Design Foundation Summer 2020

The Practical Guide to Usability

VOLUNTEERING

Code Your Future Spring/Summer 2018

Assistant mentor

Free coding bootcamp for refugees and asylum seekers

INTERESTS

GOOD UX
ACCESSIBILITY
DATA VIS
CREATIVE CODING
TECH FOR GOOD
ART
MOVIES + TV
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY