

Emma Kennard

Junior Developer



TECH EXPERIENCE



HTML 5



CSS 3



JavaScript (ES6)



React JS



React-Native



Node JS



Jest



Cypress



Heroku



PostgreSQL



Git



Auth0



AWS



Netlify



Trello



Miro



Figma

"For the last 25 years I've been sourcing and collating venues for corporate events. I was ready for a new challenge and was fascinated when I liaised with developers on projects. Now I'm sourcing and collating code myself!"

EXPERIENCE



School of Code - Full stack JavaScript development

April 2022 - August 2022

A 16-week intensive software development course, focusing on relevant technologies required for today's business programming. In addition to focusing on React JS and JavaScript (ES6) the course also covered practical workplace skills: e.g., pair programming, agile/scrum, project management.

Week Project - Wellbeing Toolkit

- The brief was to create something useful for a future School of Code bootcamper. My team of five decided to make a resource website to assist with a bootcampers wellbeing while remote learning.
- Features included; a carousel of slides from the course's mindset sessions, further reading, a break-timer, calming wave sounds with an on/off toggle, inspirational quotes from an external API and a wellbeing check-in form.
- I touched on all aspects of the front-end and took a lead role in project management.
- Front-end tech stack: React, JS, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Cypress

Month Project - Medi-Mate

- A broad brief to create an app that could have real world usage. My team of four decided to create a meditation app that combined a Tamagotchi® style pet to help motivate users to build the habit of meditation.
- The experience was excellent, although we had some problems initially gelling as a team, this was quickly resolved through talking about our preferred ways of working and mutual respect, going from strength to strength.
- We planned to design and code for mobile first, since users were most likely to use the app on their phones, if we had time we could then scale up. Using a technology, we hadn't been taught (react-native) was daunting, but we set ourselves a hard deadline to get to grips with the main functions, which we achieved and moved forward with planning and programming for our MVP.
- We pair programmed throughout our sprints.
- I touched all aspects of the front and back-ends, but primarily focused on the front-end style and functionality. I also took a lead role in the project management, making sure the team were on track, recording our plans on Miro and keeping our kanban tickets updated on Trello.
- We had a stand-up each morning to discuss the priorities for the day and a retrospective every afternoon to discuss any blockers for the following day.
- Front-end tech stack: react, react-native, CSS, JS, Expo, Firebase, Babel, Jest, netlify. Back-end tech stack: node.js, express, PostgreSQL, Heroku, Postman.

The course has further excited my interest in the world of tech, particularly in frontend development and project management. I'm looking forward to continuing my learning and have already completed a number of personal projects.

SKILLS

Communication
Teamwork
Problem solving
Contract negotiation
Managing and motivating a team
Budgeting
Project Management
Account management

LOCATION

West Midlands
Somerset

EDUCATION

School of Code

Full-stack JavaScript
development

DRPG Academy

Management Training
Microsoft Excel Intermediate

University of South Wales

Studying IT and English
Literature

Haybridge High School

9 GCSE's
3 A 'Levels

HOBBIES



REFERENCES

Available on request.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY



DRPG – Operations Manager

January 2010 – Sept 2021

- Managing the venue sourcing department. Increasing the size of the team from two members of staff to eight and turnover from half a million to £6 million, three times that of our nearest competitor.
- Constant review of department processes and liaising with other areas of the business to improve inter-departmental communications. Culminating in new ways of working that improved productivity.
- Regular 1:1's with all team members to identify, training requirements, improvements, career development and to review projects and deadlines. A motivated and happy workforce with 90% retention.
- Post event assessment, identifying any improvements required for future events. Negotiating contracts with an average saving of 30% on all quotes. Tracking, negotiating and claiming commissions from venues, exceeding annual targets.
- Introduced a new online portal for clients that allowed them to access all their booking information at any time, being able to make requests and adjustments. Liaising with our digital team, this was expanded to a desktop app that managed all of the client companies travel and event requirements.
- Working with clients across multiple sectors (e.g., BT, Lloyds Banking Group, Sainsbury's, Novo Nordisk, Bechtel etc.), understanding brand guidelines, differing requirements and ultimately finding a bespoke solution for each.
- Maintained social media, writing numerous blogs and articles for industry press.
- Awards received: team member, manager and team of the year. Voted onto C&IT Magazines "A List" (One of the top 35 Agency Planners in the UK)



DRPG – Venue & Resource Co-ordinator

November 2007 – January 2010

DRPG is a communications agency with a strong presence in the live sector, specialising in large and unusual corporate events.

- Taking client briefs, understanding their requirements, budgets, numbers, etc. Identifying the best venues for the events, UK and worldwide. Negotiating rates and added value. Arranging final details including numbers, menus and timings
- Liaising with technical and creative departments for production requirements
- Create accurate, detailed quotes and presentation documents for clients. Raising purchase orders and invoices.
- Working to tight deadlines on multiple projects.
- Attended regular appointments, site inspections and exhibitions with suppliers to keep up to date on sector trends.



Menzies Hotels – Conference Manager

March 2003 – November 2007

Based at the Stourport Manor, a corporate hotel with large event space.

- No-one had been in the role for 9 months before I started, I created new processes and procedures for all conference business coming into the hotel and was the main point of contact for all departments.
- Chaired weekly operations meeting with all departments.
- Negotiated a million-pound contract over 5 years with British Gas.
- Created and reviewed the budgets for the hotel.



Ellis Salsby Ltd – Venue Researcher

May 1999 – March 2003

Conference booking agency specialising in small to medium corporate events and training.

- Taking conference and accommodation enquiries from clients and sourcing the most suitable venues, taking into account budget, location and standards of venues.
- Dealing with all final details for bookings and processing bill payments.