

Dear New York Times Internship Coordinator,

During the first semester of my freshman year of college, I discovered my passion for computer programming and computer science. Taking my first computer science class I was amazed: not only by the seemingly limitless applications of computing, but by the fact that through typing some code, I could create from nothing a program that solved some problem.

Since then, I have continued to explore computer science, both breadthwise and depthwise. I took Data Structures and Algorithms (COS 226), in which I refined my Java skills through implementing and employing various data structures and algorithms. In addition, I learned how to perform unit testing and analyze the performance and memory usage of programs. Then, I took Intro to Programming Systems (COS 217), in which I gained fluency in C and ARM, giving me a better understanding of the underlying workings of programming languages, especially in regards to memory. Furthermore, I learned to use the linux command line, how to debug programs using tools such as GDB, and how to collaborate with a partner using Github. This semester, I joined the Princeton chapter of Hack4Impact, an organization that provides non-profits with software solutions to help them further their goals. I have been training to be a developer, learning Javascript, React.js, Node.js, Express.js, and MongoDB and building small projects along the way. This semester, as a fully-fledged developer, I will work with a small development team to create an actual project that fits non-profit-given specifications. Through my involvement with Hack4Impact, I am actively pursuing my career goal of using technology for good and applying theoretical computer science to meaningful projects.

This past summer, I interned for a biotechnology startup in Aix-En-Provence, France, where I created a companion app for one of their products. In only one month, I learned Adalo, a no-code app building program using online resources such as tutorials and forums, and used my skills to create a working deliverable. I believe that I was successful in my endeavors thanks to my self-motivation and willingness to work independently when asked. Working at the New York Times as a frontend developer would be the perfect next step towards my career goals. I think that my experience with Hack4Impact will prepare me well for collaborating closely with the Reader Experience or Games development teams to improve the user-facing frontend of the New York Times' digital presence. I would love nothing more than to have the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals within the New York Times.

Best regards,

Emilio Chan