Alex 'A.J' Norton

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 ajnorton

Airbnb Recruitment team April 26, 2015
Airbnb

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hello my name is Alex Norton. I am seeking an entry-level software developer position with Airbnb . I graduate this May with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and hands on experience with Ruby on Rails to create and implement web applications. Currently, I am finishing my last semester abroad in Oxford, England.

As an undergraduate teaching assistant for the past year and an Amazon SDE intern this summer. I have learned how to collaborate with a team and work outside my knowledge set.

At my internship at Amazon, my responsibilities included version control, semantic highlighting and executing runtime environments. All of the above helped me understand the collaboration process between peers that must be done in order to carry out a finely polished product. My biggest discovery was that to be successful in any field hinges on your ability to work diligently with your coworkers to constantly over achieve.

What attracted me to Airbnb is the power of building friendships. When you use Airbnb you are doing more than living in someones home, you are entering their world. You cross paths with a different culture, place, and maybe emotions you have never seen before. I just used Airbnb for the first time in Berlin and the experience has given me the impetus to travel the world. Airbnb can not only change your location but it can change your heart.

What made me apply to this position of Full Stack Engineer is my love for ruby programming. I am fascinated with how readable and powerful ruby and Rails can work together to make dynamic web applications. I have used Rails to make my website and others. One example is Hokie Links, a website where students can create notes and reviews about classes at my current university, Virginia Tech. The site is hosted on Heroku, a new technology I picked while working with rails, as well as Rspec and HAML. Working on Rails has been the impetus behind staying with the newest technologies as the software field is constantly changing. While I learn Rails, I enjoy iOS programming as well. Swift is another new technology that will be the face of iOS applications for years.

Lastly, let my state next that I truly love what I do. In my spare time I make YouTube videos of programming tips that I learn. These videos help me stay focused on what I am learning in class and help me review later on. Doing this has allowed to interact with other aspiring programmers around the world and help them learn to code. What draws me to programming is that sort of interaction. When you are on your computer you can be a superhero. You can move things around the world, make people laugh, and change society all at your fingertips.

I am very interested in working for Airbnb and would like the opportunity to discuss a position with you. My resume is attached below. I will contact you in a week to ten days to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.   I look forward to speaking you about this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Alex 'A.J' Norton

Attached: curriculum vitæ