

# Jack (Haosen) Xu

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Ms. Allie Speers  
Intern Program Team  
Shopify  
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May 10, 2018

Dear Ms. Adkins,

As a person who enjoys problem solving, taking on challenges, and acquiring new knowledge in the field of computing, I would like to express my interest in the 8-month Backend Developer Intern position at Shopify that has been posted on the University of Toronto Co-op website. As a third-year student in the University of Toronto Scarborough pursuing a specialist degree in Computer Science, I am aiming to further expand my knowledge of computer technology. I find this to be an opportunity, not only to learn and improve myself, but more importantly to provide applications of skills I have already learned. Skills of which include a keen understanding of software development processes, being able to work with a team to accomplish projects, and also being able to quickly and efficiently learn new tools.

My latest placement as a Junior Systems Developer at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation gave me a better understanding of software development concepts and tools, such as agile methods of software development, version control, IDEs, and tools for web development, and also allowed me to utilize this knowledge to work in group-oriented projects, and individual projects. As a Junior Systems Developer, I contributed to the development and enhancements of the Property Income Expense Request (PIER) Portal and the Proforma Valuation System (PVS). To do this, I had to quickly figure out the intricacies in which these two systems interact, and at the same time learn new programming languages and frameworks. These projects allowed me to experience both aspects of front and back-end of agile web development. In the front-end side, I learned design patterns and frameworks such as AngularJS, MVC, and put them to use to create clean and user-friendly user interfaces. On the back-end side, I partook on data migration processes, database design, and the addition of new features. I am confident that my exposure to software development tools and concepts, will prove useful in the design of tools and frameworks at Shopify.

Not long ago, I provided volunteer work for an alarm company. Without prior knowledge, I helped Supertech install a VoIP phone system, and discovered features that would increase efficiency. On several occasions, I also offered troubleshooting assistance to employees, finding more efficient methods to use software. Recently, I applied the knowledge I acquired during my previous co-op work term to further assist the company. I was able to design a database to store customer information and implement a customer invoice PDF generation tool. Due to my ability to effectively learn new tools and software, I was able to improve operations at Supertech, saving both time and effort for stakeholders.

I am very excited to learn new technologies and ready to tackle new challenges, and so I would appreciate this as an opportunity to showcase my passion for technology. I would greatly appreciate meeting you in the future for further discussions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Xu

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