

Aimchess
PlayMagnus Group

106 Bradley Mills Road
Huddersfield
HD5 9PT

November 3, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a freelance software engineer who holds a PhD in computing, I am writing to apply for the position of Backend Python Engineer at Aimchess.

For my next step, I'm keen to put my practical skills to work, and I feel Aimchess would be an excellent fit. I've been fond of chess since I first learned to play as a child, and an active club player for fifteen years. I believe that chess has a bright future ahead; we have seen the online game flourish in lockdown, and subscriptions to online platforms surge. Moreover, online tools and machine learning are improving the way we train as chess players. Therein lies my career dream and a growing industry I'd love to be part of.

I already have a solid foundation of skills well-suited to the role. Beside passion for chess and familiarity with online platforms, I have three years' experience with Python. In Python, I've authored an open-source spaced-repetition opening trainer called Chessic. As a postdoctoral researcher in computer science I wrote regularly in Python (implementing tools for automated reasoning) and delivered postgraduate software development modules in the language. Arguably more relevant, I have over ten years' experience with other languages, primarily C/C++ and PHP. I believe core skills in programming often relate more to general concepts like algorithm design, excellent coding practices and complexity, rather than to the syntax of one particular language; I've honed those core skills and I've taught them. I'm comfortable managing large-scale projects and maintaining complete code bases.

I also feel that my academic experience puts me in a positive position. I have an exceptional research record – for example, within two years, I won the best paper award at the flagship conference for a subject area in which I had no prior experience. I think this exemplifies how I am able to turn my energies into excellent results when a challenge is inspiring, and that I am able to get up to speed quickly when something piques my interest. Successful collaboration also trains specific abilities; effective communication on a technical level, creative and critical thinking for problem solving, and learning how to effectively improve oneself. As a mathematician, I always try to distill the essence of a problem and solve it in the simplest possible way. I think these skills offer long-term value to Aimchess.

Thanks for considering my application. My CV is attached, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Joshua Blinkhorn
PhD. Proof Complexity (2020)