Laura Joanna Richards

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Summary Statement

A highly organised and detail-oriented professional with a background in administration and customer service, currently completing a Bachelor of Computer Science (Software Engineering) and actively seeking an opportunity to contribute to and learn from meaningful projects while gaining practical industry experience. Possesses strong skills in database management, project coordination, and effective communication. Demonstrates the ability to manage both technical and administrative responsibilities with accuracy and efficiency. Recognised for strong problem-solving abilities and a solid work ethic, as evidenced by ongoing professional development pursued alongside employment and academic commitments.

Bachelor of Computer Science (Major: Software Engineering)

Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Expected Graduation: 2025 Relevant Units Studied:

- Applications Development
- Applied Communications
- Computer Fundamentals
- Computer Security
- Data Structures
- Foundations of Software Engineering
- Intelligent Systems
- Introduction to Mobile Applications Development
- Mathematics for Computing
- Object-Oriented Analysis and Design

- Object-Oriented Programming with C++
- Professional Science Essentials
- Programming Principles
- Project Methods and Professionalism
- Software Testing
- Programming Languages and Paradigms
- Distributed Systems
- Software Architectures and Design

Diploma of Web Development

North Metropolitan TAFE, Northbridge Graduated: 2022 Core Units Studied:

- Website Development
- Web Design and User Experience
- Bootstrap / Tailwind
- JavaScript Programming
- HTML, CSS, and Responsive Design
- Web Project Implementation
- Database Integration
- Content Management Systems (CMS)

Competencies

Programming Languages:

- HTML, CSS, JavaScript & Python I have used HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to build responsive, interactive personal websites as well as websites for friends. These projects allowed me to gain hands-on experience with modern front-end development practices, including responsive design and client-side scripting to enhance user experience.
- Python has been a core language in my academic projects, particularly in artificial
 intelligence assignments and for building simple programs such as a command-line
 quiz app and a Tic-Tac-Toe game. These projects have helped strengthen my
 understanding of algorithmic logic, problem-solving, and modular programming.

Technologies:

 I have used React, Node.js and NPM to develop full-stack web applications, particularly RESTful APIs for projects like an online store and a Netflix clone. These experiences have enhanced my knowledge of component-based front-end development and server-side logic, as well as integration between the front-end and back-end services.

Database Management:

 Throughout my coursework and projects, I have used relational databases like MySQL and SQL Server, as well as NoSQL solutions such as MongoDB. These technologies have been applied in developing systems for storing and retrieving structured and unstructured data, including use cases like blog post management and user data handling.

Tools:

• I regularly use Git and GitHub for version control in my projects, enabling efficient collaboration, tracking of changes, and project backup. I also frequently utilize the CLI for file management, project setup, and interacting with development tools, enhancing my workflow and efficiency in software development tasks.

Relevant Work Experience

Forage: Skyscanner: Software Engineering

As part of this program, I engaged in practical tasks simulating real-world software engineering scenarios at Skyscanner. Key activities included:

- Front-End Development: Built a responsive web application using React and Skyscanner's Backpack component library, focusing on user interface design and functionality.
- Feature Implementation: Developed a date picker feature, allowing users to select travel dates, enhancing the application's interactivity.
- Automated Testing: Implemented and executed automated tests to ensure application reliability and performance.
- Version Control: Utilized Git for version control, managing code changes and collaborating effectively.

Client Blog Project: LEGO Blog Website (Group Project, North Metropolitan TAFE)
As part of a client-focused group project at TAFE, I collaborated with a team to design and develop a fully functional blog website for a LEGO-themed content platform using the LAMP stack (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP).

- **Client Collaboration**: Participated in client meetings to gather requirements, define project scope, and ensure the final product aligned with user needs and brand style.
- Back-End Development: Solely responsible for implementing the back end using PHP and MySQL. Developed core features such as user authentication, post creation, editing, and category functionality.
- **Database Design**: Independently designed and managed the MySQL database architecture, ensuring efficient storage and retrieval of user data, blog content, and metadata.
- **Front-End Support**: Contributed to integrating responsive design using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- **Deployment & Testing**: Supported deployment on an Apache server and collaborated on group testing and debugging to ensure smooth functionality and performance.

This project provided hands-on experience with full-stack development and sharpened my skills in backend architecture, database management, and real-world client collaboration.

Employment

Benara Nursery – Current Role

Serving as the personal assistant to the nursery manager at one of Australia's largest plant nurseries, blending administrative, supervisory, and technical responsibilities to support daily operations and long-term planning:

- **Database Management**: Maintain and update internal databases related to plant inventory, location tracking, and sales preparation—reinforcing practical experience in data structuring, querying, and accuracy.
- **Process Optimization**: Collaborate with management to streamline scheduling and planning processes, helping to meet delivery targets and improve efficiency—similar to software development life cycle (SDLC) planning and sprint management.
- **Problem Solving & Critical Thinking**: Resolve daily operational issues and quickly adapt to changing conditions, a valuable skill in debugging and troubleshooting software systems.

This role has strengthened my ability to work in structured systems, manage dynamic data, and coordinate tasks within time-sensitive environments—skills that naturally extend to software development and project delivery contexts.

Further Training and Development

Udemy:

- Adanced CSS
- Mern
- Node.js
- Python
- Ruby on Rails

- Advanced JavaScript
- Java
- Web development
- React
- Express

Additional Information

• C Class Driver's License

Australian Citizen

References

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