Kaya-Sem Van Cauwenberghe

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Computer Science student at Ghent University with a focus on backend and distributed systems. Hands-on experience with Elixir/Phoenix, Go, Kubernetes, and messaging technologies like Kafka and NATS.

Experience

Web Developer — DSA (Dienst StudentenActiviteiten), UGent   August 2025 – Present

- Building and maintaining web infrastructure supporting 100+ student associations at Ghent University.
- Developing features in Elixir/Phoenix to streamline event management and member administration.
- Website: dsa.ugent.be

Volunteer Web Developer — Cultour   October 2025 – Present

- Contributing to the development and maintenance of the Cultour website, a student organization that brings culture closer to students by offering discounted tickets to cultural events in Ghent.
- Website: cultour.be

Freelance Language Developer — BotBattle

- Designed and implemented TronkScript, a domain-specific language for the BotBattle programming competition.
- Developed the parser and language infrastructure to enable students to write bot strategies for the competition.
- Website: botbattle.be

Various Non-Tech Student Jobs (5+ years of experience)   2019 – 2025

- Accumulated over 5 years of experience working in diverse roles across hospitality (Horeca), manufacturing (Volvo Cars Ghent), construction, and operations at Kristallijn (ice rink).
- Developed strong teamwork, adaptability, and customer service skills in dynamic, fast-paced environments.

Education

Ghent University, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science   Sept 2023 – Present

Projects

Commandtrein   2024

- Designed and developed an intuitive Command Line Interface (CLI) application for navigating NMBS's timetables and routes, providing a seamless and efficient experience for users seeking train schedules.
- Integrated the application with the iRail API, leveraging real-time data to ensure accurate results and enhance usability.
- GitHub: Kaya-Sem/commandtrein

Semlink   2025

- Developing a semantic system in Go for tagging folders and mapping them to other folders based on semantic relationships, enabling efficient organization and retrieval of data.
- Inspired by the concept of symbolic links, Semlink provides a more intelligent and context-aware method for managing file structures.
- GitHub: Kaya-Sem/semlink-overengineered

Technical Skills

Kubernetes, Kafka, NATS, Neo4j, Elixir, Phoenix, Java, Python, C, C++, Go, SQL, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Haskell, R, Protobuf/gRPC