*Note: it’ll be formatted nicely, dw about that for now*

Dear Hiring Manager,

I’m a 2nd year Software Engineering student at the University of Waterloo, and I’m looking for winter 2024 internships. I’d like to open this cover letter by just being honest; I didn’t write this from scratch for the application. With job search on top of school, extracurriculars, and a social life, it just wouldn’t be feasible. I don’t want to copy/paste your job description into chatGPT, and then add your company name at the bottom. I’d much rather spent time working on one quality piece of writing, that represents why I could be a good fit for the role.

So now that I’ve (hopefully) convinced you that I shouldn’t be disqualified right off the bat, I suppose I need to convince you why I’d be a good fit. This cover letter is about me, not my qualifications, or the projects I’ve worked on. Check out my resume for that. Here, I’ll talk about my soft skills. Skills that are broadly applicable, and could serve me well in this role.

I thrive in discomfort. That’s why I picked Waterloo. A year in, I can confidently say it was the right choice. First year was hard, but I rose to the challenge. I did well, not because of any preternatural ability, but because I know how to work hard, and I know how to get from where I am, to where I need to be. I quickly learned that I wouldn’t survive without the help of a study group, so I found one. I’ve been amazed at the efficacy that comes with teamwork, and love being around smart people that can push me to improve.

I took the lessons from school with me to my first co-op term this summer. I was happy to learn that the same attitude that got me through first year would get me through the work term. Just as with school, not every day at work will be sun shines and rainbows. By focusing on how I could improve, and working closely with my colleagues, I was able to have real impact at the company.

It’d like to re-iterate that while I haven’t written the cover letter specifically for you, it doesn’t mean I’m not excited for the role. I applied because this seems like it would be a valuable learning opportunity. While other candidates may bring the same (or frankly better) technical skills to the role, if you hire me, I think you’ll find an eagerness to learn, and an excitement to improve that sets me apart. I look forward to hopefully speaking with you.

Kieran Hulsman