Guilherme Zago

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AI & DATA SOFTWARE ENGINEER

To: Elena Chatziathanasiadou, OpenAI

Dear Elena,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the OpenAI DevDay Event. As you may recall, I'm Guilherme, and we had an engaging discussion conversation bouncing between Portuguese and English about the about the OpenAI Residency program. I am writing to express my interest in joining the OpenAI team, either through the residency program or as a full-time employee, as you mentioned. Our conversation, along with a bunch of interactions with other OpenAI team members, deeply resonated with me, affirming my alignment with OpenAI's innovative spirit and values.

Reflecting on our conversation and the event, I am inspired by how my experience in AI aligns with OpenAI's culture and objectives. Participating in DevDay, engaging with a global community, and my work with LLMs in Brazil have prepared me to contribute meaningfully to OpenAI. My experience in the AI field, particularly with LLMs, growed together with my software engineering experience and has equipped me with the skills to develop complex systems, aligning with OpenAI's mission to build safe and beneficial AI.

What particularly draws me to OpenAI is the philosophy of building safe and beneficial AI for all of humanity. I strongly believe in this vision and feel that I can make a significant contribution to this mission. Having already been working in the field of artificial intelligence for some time, I see OpenAI as the perfect platform to further develop and apply my skills. My experience with LLMs, in particular, has given me a solid foundation in understanding and developing complex systems, a skill I see as crucial to the goals of OpenAI. The prospect of deepening my expertise in AI while contributing to OpenAI's mission is incredibly exciting to me.

I am flexible regarding our next interaction, open to both in-person meetings in San Francisco and online discussions. This adaptability ensures effective collaboration and connection in a way that best suits OpenAI's preferences. I have attached my resume and can provide letters of recommendation if needed.

Thank you for considering my application. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the OpenAI team and look forward to potentially discussing this further.

Sincerely,

Guilherme Zago

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Guilherme Zago
Research & Software Engineer

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LinkedIn, Github

Date / Place of birth
2000-11-09, Porto Alegre

Nationality
Brazilian

Driving license
International CNH A

Skills
Teaching
Adaptability
Creativity
Problem Solving
Communication Skills
Teamwork
Leadership
Mentorship
Research
React
JavaScript
TypeScript
NextJS
Node JS
Python
Large Language Models
Machine Learning
Fine-Tuning
Prompt Engineering
Data Science

Languages
Portuguese

Profile

Energetic and Enthusiastic Software & AI Engineer, with expertise in LLMs and SW development, known for creativity, eagerness to learn, and innovative problem-solving in AI, SW and research projects.

Employment History

Founder, CEO, QueRy Mobile, Porto Alegre
February 2019 — December 2020

At just 18, I founded QueRy, driven by my passion for innovation and software development. This startup was the beginning of my career, highlighting my ability to identify market gaps and develop impactful solutions. Despite my commitment to QueRy, I chose to shelf the project and embrace a new opportunity at Compass.UOL during the pandemic.

Full-stack Developer, Compass.uol, Porto Alegre
October 2020 — November 2021

At Compass.UOL, I immersed myself in full-stack development, collaboratively crafting digital solutions for major international and Brazilian companies like Santander, Pi Investimentos, Toro Investimentos, Sicredi, and Madeira Madeira. This role significantly enhanced my technical expertise, alongside introducing me to leadership skills, laying the groundwork for tackling increasingly complex challenges in my career.

Software Engineer, Poatek & WillowTree, Porto Alegre
December 2021 — May 2023

Starting as a Software Engineer at Poatek, I quickly gained recognition for my strong communication and presentation skills, trusted consistently to represent the company in client demos, corporate meetings, and public talks. My role not only involved showcasing our latest innovations and sharing project successes and strategies, but leading teams and working with data science teams in research and innovation projects.

This consistent impact and skill demonstration led me to be the first Poatek employee to contribute to the establishment of WillowTree's (Poatek's Parent Company) AI research and development division, helping set strategic and technological directions in artificial intelligence.

AI & Data Software Engineer, Poatek & WillowTree, Porto Alegre
April 2023 — October 2023

English

Spanish

As a pioneer in Poatek's venture into artificial intelligence, I had the honor to be the first employee to join and thus co-found the WillowTree's AI research and development team. My engagement in AI discussions led to this pivotal role, being a result of my consistent engagement and initiative in AI-related discussions within the company. I established myself as a go-to expert in LLMs and GAI tools, contributing significantly to the team's foundational knowledge and strategic direction.

My contributions extended beyond technical expertise to include leadership and mentorship, cultivating a collaborative atmosphere for innovative AI research and application in software. My role was crucial in driving the early success and direction of Poatek's and WillowTree's AI initiatives, marking a significant milestone in my career.

Education

Bachelor in Software Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre

January 2018 — January 2020

Dropped out due to the program's pace and content not being future-oriented neither future-proof. Pursued self-taught studies in software development, with self-taught independent learning.

Bachelor in Innovation and Business Administration , Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre

February 2020 — December 2022

Graduated with the second highest grade in the 2022/2 class, achieved the second best score in PUCRS' 2022 ENADE simulation, and was noted for impactful work and proposals for changes in the degree program.

Certifications & Courses

Generative AI with Large Language Models, Coursera

July 2023 — July 2023

Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamental (AI-900) , Microsoft

August 2023 — August 2023

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert Certification, PUCRS

March 2021 — July 2022

Extra-curricular activities

Soccer Team Captain, João Paulo I- High School, Porto Alegre

2015 — 2017

Mentor, Front-End Mentorship at Poatek, Porto Alegre

2022

Lead Developer, Gramado Summit - Hackathon, Gramado, RS

2023

Mentor & Speaker for AI & LLMs , Poatek, Porto Alegre

2023

Guest Speaker, TECNOPUC and Events, Porto Alegre
2023

Guest Speaker, Inaugural Lecture, UNISINOS, Porto Alegre
2023

References

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