

Dear Hiring Manager,

Hope you are doing well!

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Software Engineer position at Datadog. I am currently a grad student in Computer Science at New York University, with an expected graduation date in May 2025. That said, my program allows me to dedicate my last semester for full-time work using CPT (Curricular Practical Training). So, I would be able to start working early Jan. 2025 if selected. With a Master's degree in Computer Science from New York University and extensive hands-on experience in full-stack development, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the software development team at Datadog.

At Kaizntree, a start-up my schoolmates and I established, I was entrusted with building a comprehensive small-business management solution from scratch. This position required me to quickly grasp frameworks like Vue and Django to design a long-lasting codebase, which can be easily maintained and supported by my fellow engineers. Despite it being challenging, I got very excited as it was my first time taking ownership of a production project. I used all the time I could learning and improving, eventually delivering Kaizntree as a robust application that is still in production till today (you may explore it by Googling Kaizntree). Additionally, my role extended beyond development; I also took the initiative to adopt Scrum methodologies and integrated CI/CD practices using AWS. This streamlined our development process and significantly reduced our team's time spent on DevOps.

During my internship at eBay Inc., I proposed the transition of KeyHub from Vue2 to React, integrating it into eBay's Cloud Console. This project required rapid upskilling in TypeScript and Redux, and I was responsible for ensuring the updated application met the latest security standards set by OpenPGP. Through my efforts, KeyHub came online in under a month and greatly enhanced the password exchange security and efficiency (new KeyHub is plugged into the Cloud Console using JS-Plugin, so users never have to navigate outside of Cloud Console).

Similarly, my experience at the Department of Design and Construction, NYC Government, involved creating and deploying AI-powered tools to enhance construction planning efficiency. Here, I was challenged to learn and implement Azure ML Studio, PySpark, and Hadoop within a short timeframe. The successful deployment of these tools provided crucial data insights, significantly benefiting project planning and execution.

My experiences in the aforementioned projects reinforced my strong desire to learn and my dedication to work, as the success of each project served as a powerful incentive to always keep these qualities with me. The rewards of seeing my projects drive real impact have instilled a persistent drive in me, which I am excited to bring to Datadog.

Thank you for considering my application. I am looking forward to discussing how I can contribute to your team and help Datadog achieve its goals.

Warm regards,

Xiaochen (Nigel)