

Xiaochen Lu
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Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my interest in the Software Developer Intern position at D. E. Shaw & Co. After graduating from NYU Shanghai with a Bachelor of Science in Data Science and a double major in Business & Finance, I am currently pursuing a Master of Science in CS from NYU. With an extensive hands-on experience in software development, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to D. E. Shaw & Co.'s mission of empowering investors across the globe to achieve more.

My passion for the internship position at D. E. Shaw & Co. stems from a unique confluence of my educational background, technical experience, and personal aspirations. Educated at NYU Shanghai, I was immersed in an environment that harmoniously blends U.S. and Chinese cultures and working ethics. This unique educational journey has not only equipped me with a global perspective but also instilled in me the ability to navigate and contribute effectively within diverse working environments. Given D. E. Shaw & Co.'s strong presence in both the U.S. and China, I believe this background positions me as an ideal candidate to bridge cultural and operational nuances within the company.

Building on this unique educational and cultural foundation, my academic path further stands out due to my double major in Business & Finance. This distinctive combination has equipped me with a profound understanding of financial markets and principles, through courses like Equity Valuation, Corporate Finance, and Econometrics. Such an in-depth knowledge of finance, paired with my software engineering expertise, ensures that I am well-prepared to tackle the complex challenges and opportunities at the intersection of finance and technology at D. E. Shaw & Co.

Throughout my academic and professional journey, my goal has always been to leverage software engineering to enable people and organizations, during which I've also accumulated extensive experience in software development. At eBay Inc., I reduced crisis response time of eBay's Cloud Infrastructure by 25% through a live monitoring dashboard I proposed. While at Kaizntree Co., I led an agile development team of 4 people from different cultural backgrounds and built a versatile small business management platform using Django, OAuth2, and Vue.js, which earned over 100 satisfied customers. These experiences underscored my commitment and abilities to build robust software solutions and drive meaningful impact in a diverse team.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to work at D. E. Shaw & Co. for its reputation as a pioneer in combining technology and finance to innovate within the investment space, a perfect match with my passion to empower people through great software. My prior experience in developing software solutions has honed my skills in creating scalable, innovative solutions and has cultivated my proactive attitude towards learning and applying new technologies. Given the role's emphasis on tackling complex challenges through high-quality,

innovative solutions, I see its direct alignment with my enthusiasm for tech innovation, my software engineering expertise, and my commitment to excellence.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to further discuss how I can contribute to the success of D. E. Shaw & Co.'s mission.

Sincerely,
Xiaochen (Nigel) Lu