

My name is Samuel Padilla, I am 20 years old, Colombian, lived half of my life in Brazil, and now study Computer Science in the Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. My multi-cultural background, my deep curiosity, and the mindset I've developed turned me into a person driven to learn, add value, and work with people who are doing great things for the world. In this cover letter I want to go over my mindset, skillset, and how I can be valuable to Airbnb's goals.

In 2017, being 18 years old, I moved alone to the US to study Computer Science and find my own path. In these 2 years, I learned the power of technology as a changing force in society, I developed a huge passion for entrepreneurship and the startup world, and, most importantly, I started to learn how that world works. One of the things that sets me apart the most is that I never settle for the things I learn in the school system. More than half of my tech knowledge is self-taught, and when it comes to the startup world, networking, and personal development, it has all been a self-started journey. I developed an action driven mindset, chasing my dreams and improving myself every day.

As I said, I never settled for the things I learned in school. Hence, I started looking for ways to develop my skills outside of class. Beyond HTML, CSS, JS, and C++ that we use in school, I learned Python to work with algorithms and neural networks, and learned the UX design process. I got involved in a research project to build a website for a non-profit, and as part of the research, I learned complex algorithm design using [Project Euler's](#) challenges. This gave me the opportunity to develop the analytic mindset to write efficient algorithms, learned concepts like dynamic programming, and improved my mathematical skills. Later I took a data structures and algorithms class, and a transition to abstract mathematics class simultaneously. I went way beyond the class work. I developed the challenging habit of applying things I learned in class to real world applications and drawing correlations between the things I learned on my own, and what I learned in class. Simply, I have built a strong skillset in programming and algorithms mostly self-taught. Most important, I have a proven record of learning things on my own. I know how to learn and quickly apply what I learn to new challenges.

Overall, I am a traveler. I have used Airbnb several times and it is amazing to see how much Airbnb has changed the traveling industry. Airbnb is genuinely connecting tourists to locals and breaking that gap when people travel – and that is extremely powerful. I love Airbnb's vision and I am a big fan of its startup history – from YC to nowadays. I believe my communication skills in multiple languages make me a great addition for a company that celebrates diversity so much like Airbnb. My skillset is prepared for the job, and my ability to learn new things quickly will come in handy when learning how to do the work. I truly believe in Airbnb's work and being able to bring some value to the company and learn with the people would be a dream coming trues.