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BJSS Engineering Academy
Cardiff, UK

10th October 2021

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to express my strong interest to apply for the BJSS Engineering Academy I saw advertised on the Job Application for BJSS Engineering Academy at BJSS Academy (greenhouse.io) website. I am a 3rd Year Undergraduate student in Applied Software Engineering, Cardiff University. Given my 3 years of experience working with Java, Python and SQL, and my passion for technology, I would appreciate the opportunity to join the BJSS Engineering Academy Team in September 2022.

Through my academic participation in team projects, I have gained valuable experience in coding, relational databases, application of agile techniques, and client communication. In a 4-week project, I have collaborated with my team to develop a website application for Newport's Chartist Trail aiming to create a feedback page, quiz, and an admin console accessible to the costumer for editing. Working on these tasks, I enhanced my knowledge on Git, SQL, Python, and JavaScript. To ensure tracking the progress of the project, Taiga was used as the form of agile scrum methodology. I have recently used Spring Boot framework in a collaborated project with the Welsh Rowing Association Ltd, also worked to secure storage of sensitive data (DLC type) and user input validation both for the front-end and database tier. Working in a fast-paced environment, it strengthened my time management abilities to meet tight deadlines agreed within the team and with a clear focus on the product and the client.

Working as a Software Test Engineer in the Programming Department at Cycom Business Solutions Ltd, I was responsible for the testing of changes and fixes, implementing a manual inventory valuation method using Microsoft Excel. I have learnt about testing and reviewing reports of the inventory system for missing criteria, submitted to the Quality Assurance Specialist for further review. During this time, I have also gained experience in designing an application (calculator) to assist with user input validation using Microsoft Visual Studio 2008. This internship has extended my knowledge in programming, and in business development and solutions, also giving me the opportunity to build a professional network.

Previous individual projects involved implementing the Snakes and Ladders game on a Graphical User Interface (GUI) using Behaviour Driven Development (BDD) and SPIDR method of feature decomposition. I applied Database Manipulation Language (DML), Data Definition Language (DDL) and Transaction Control Language (TCL) types to provide an efficient data system both for reporting and retrieving data from the game. Stored procedures, triggers, and functions were used to follow a set of rules of the game and several features were calculated automatically. In a team project, I was assigned as a Scrum Master for a week and organised a Sprint Planning meeting using Planning Poker, daily scrum meetings, a Sprint Review meeting, and a retrospective meeting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have also expanded my knowledge on Cloud Services, APIs and React by completing a series of courses on LinkedIn Learning recently applied on my university's coursework. The DevOps module improved my skills by deploying my Spring Boot project on a CentOS 8 Virtual Machine using Vagrant and Jenkins. Gaining such practical expertise helped me achieve the Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) certification. As your Academy Engineer, I will deploy my problem-solving and organisational abilities to communicate with our team and to meet the client's requirements.

I was excited to find out that I will be working in a variety of engineering roles and engaging in interactive sessions aided by expert tutors. This is a great opportunity for me to further my knowledge in Data Engineering and to challenge my abilities in a working environment. I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to learn more about my responsibilities in the BJSS Engineering Academy Team. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sotiris Yiallourides