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* 22 Years Old
* Biology Degree-2022
* Division 1 College Rower
* Eagle Scout
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Hello Derek and others at Variant,

Seeing that I received a biology degree and am looking to make a pivot into Web3, I believe it will be more beneficial to describe my journey into the cryptocurrency market than a traditional resume.

I started college as an undecided major believing that as I grew as a person through my experience, I would discover the right path for me. This plan was quickly abrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic which instilled a great deal of uncertainty around the world, caused schooling to move online and forced myself to decide my major based on future security rather than something that I was passionate about. I have had a great interest in financial markets for quite some time, but up until the pandemic, never had a significant enough capital to consider investing my personal money. Though, with the introduction of stimulus checks, emergency grants, and student loan forgiveness, I had finally amassed enough to begin my journey into investing. I had been watching cryptocurrency valuations soar throughout the end of 2020, and in early February 2021, finally made my first purchase of bitcoin. I knew very little about how much the crypto industry had to offer but once I finally had my own skin in the game, I felt like I needed to learn as much as I could about the different opportunities and currencies in this sector. After all, it was my money and I needed good reason to justify my decisions. I was still new to investing and did not have a solid grasp on the technology, market tendencies, or risk management. This became extremely evident as I paid my tuition to the market during the May 2021 crash where I lost over 60% of my low 5-figures crypto portfolio. Although I was down, I was not discouraged, and during the preceding 3-month bear market, I continued to research new tokens and opportunities that were available in the market. This is when I stumbled across Defi. Earning yield on coins and tokens that I was planning on holding for years to come seemed like the most obvious and lucrative decision. This switch to operating completely on chain offered so many more opportunities and assisted me in growing my portfolio 5x from the lows. I have also gained crucial knowledge about researching promising projects, avoiding hacks and scams, and effectively navigating between protocols on all different chains. By having my own portfolio at risk, I believe my growth in this space has been exponential to the point where I now live and breathe the crypto market. Reading whitepapers, parsing through Twitter and Discord, and participating in my college’s cryptocurrency club (Badger Blockchain) took complete priority over my traditional schooling which I was just completing to get a degree. It would be impossible to give every example of my wins and losses and what I learned from them in just this small write-up, but if you’d be willing to give me the time, I believe my knowledge of the sector and my skills within it will impress. Thank you very much for your consideration.