ALICE WILSON

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Location: London/remote
GitHub | Linkedin | Portfolio

Graduate Software Engineer

PERSONAL STATEMENT

An adaptable, highly driven career-changer and freelance Software Engineer with a passion for creating high-quality, functional and engaging digital solutions. I am pursuing a full-time Software Engineer role because it provides the opportunity to combine my creativity and technical skills to solve real-world problems. My previous role as a patent attorney has honed my analytical thinking and attention to detail, while my experience as a content creator and podcaster has developed my ability to communicate complex ideas clearly to diverse audiences. Eager to leverage my diverse skill set, I am seeking an opportunity that fosters continuous learning and allows me to make a positive impact in the world.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Language: JavaScript, using Node.js and browser as environment
Front-end: HTML, CSS, React, React Native, Lighthouse and other accessibility tools
Back-end: SQL, PostgreSQL, Express.js, Firebase, seeding, migrations
Testing: Test-Driven Development (TDD), Jest, Supertest
Hosting/Deployment: Render, Cloudflare, Netlify
Design: UI/UX principles, responsive web design, Figma, Canva, video editing (iMovie and Capcut)
Other: Paired programming, technical communication, Agile and SCRUM methodologies, Git for version control

PROJECTS

- **NCNews API -** a RESTful API served using Express and built using Node.js and PostgreSQL, which allows users to interact with NCNews, a Reddit-style news app where users can read, post, comment and vote on articles.
- **NCNews (front end)** - a React application which connects to the NCNews API to allow users to browse and interact with articles and comments from the API.
- **iTinerary** - a travel planning mobile app built using React Native, Firebase, Expo, Axios, and Mapbox.
- **SoulFlow Yoga (front end)** - a sleek, responsive yoga studio website built using React and designed using Figma.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Junior Software Engineer (Freelance Contract) at Tech Returners   *Sept 2024 - present*
- Developing a full-stack events platform with a React frontend, Express.js backend and PostgreSQL database.
- Building a RESTful API with JWT-based authentication to allow users to view, create and sign up for events.
- Implementing Stripe integration for secure payments and Google Calendar integration for event management.
- Designing a sleek, user-friendly and responsive UI, ensuring usability and accessibility across devices.

Junior Software Engineer (Freelance Contract) at Sixty   *Sept 2024 - Oct 2024*
- Designed and developed a mobile-friendly web application acting as a digital companion for an interactive escape room game, allowing teams to input answers, track progress, and view a real-time leaderboard.
- Utilised React for the frontend, creating a seamless, app-like experience optimised for mobile devices.
- Integrated Firebase for real-time updates, data synchronisation, and authentication.

Junior Software Engineer at Northcoders (Software Engineering Bootcamp)   *Jan 2024 - Apr 2024*
- Gained proficiency in Javascript for building full-stack web and mobile applications.
- Collaborated on projects using paired programming and agile methodologies, utilising test-driven development.
- Designed and developed responsive, user-friendly front-end applications using React and React Native.
- Built, tested and deployed RESTful APIs with an Express backend server in Node.js and a PostgreSQL database.
- Gained hands-on experience with Git, version control, and collaborative development practices.
- Demonstrated an ability to rapidly learn new technologies and apply them to full-stack development projects.

JavaScript Kickstarter at Code First Girls   *Sept 2023 - Oct 2023*
- Covered Javascript fundamentals, DOM manipulation, event handling, and basic web development concepts.
- Delivered a group project in the form of an interactive habit tracker web application.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Theatre Instructor and Bunk Counsellor at Camp Lindenmere   *June 2024 - August 2024*
- Supervised and supported a bunk of 12 girls aged 11-14, fostering a positive and inclusive environment.
- Collaborated with the Theatre team to produce 4 musicals in 7 weeks, providing vocal instruction, stage direction and choreography for children aged 7-16.
- Resolved conflicts between campers of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences.

Part-Qualified Patent Attorney at J A Kemp   *October 2021 - January 2024*
- Drafted and prosecuted patent applications in the chemistry and pharmaceutical fields, working with clients to develop tailored patent strategies that aligned with their business objectives.
- Managed multiple client portfolios, prioritised workloads effectively and ensured deadlines were met.
- Developed strong analytical skills and the ability to explain complex technical concepts to a range of audiences.

Pensions Administrator at Aegon   *September 2019 – August 2020*
- Duties included uploading new pension scheme members onto the system, maintaining and updating member records, and directing incoming work items to the relevant teams to ensure work was completed efficiently.

EDUCATION

Queen Mary, University of London   *2020 – 2021*
- **MSc Management of Intellectual Property (Herchel Smith Scholarship)**
  Gained foundation level accreditation with the professional bodies IPReg, CIPA and CITMA.

Durham University, Grey College   *2015 – 2019*
- **MChem (Hons) Chemistry – 1st class (within top 20% of my year group)**
  Studied the five main branches of chemistry: organic, inorganic, physical, analytical, and biological chemistry. Also undertook an elective module in Spanish (equivalent to AS level standard).

Stamford High School, Lincolnshire   *2009 – 2015*
- A-levels: Chemistry (A*), Physics (A*), Maths (A); AS Level: French (A)

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Mental Health First Aider, MHFA England   *July 2022 - present*
- Supported colleagues with mental health challenges and promoted mental health awareness in the workplace.
- Organised and led weekly mindfulness sessions for my colleagues as an active member of the Mental Health and Diversity & Inclusion committees at my previous company.

Fourth Year Rep for Grey College MCR   *November 2018 – July 2019*
- Liaised with peers to encourage participation in college activities, voiced student opinions to the Executive Committee, and organised social events for the year group.

Social Secretary for Durham Dynamics Acappella Choir   *April 2017 - July 2019*
- Collaborated with another member of the choir to organise social events.
- Offered a level-headed approach within the Executive Committee to improve the choir as a whole.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Content creation:** I co-host the women's wellbeing and self-development podcast "Flourish and Thrive", and I also run a social media platform sharing my coding journey (@alicesbalance on Instagram and TikTok).

- **Fitness:** I am passionate about the impact of exercise on mental health, and I regularly attend dance, yoga and spin classes. I have experience in several dance styles, including ballet, commercial, musical theatre and lyrical.

- **Music:** I was an active member of Durham University's acappella choir. I hold the following music qualifications: Grade 8 Piano, Grade 5 Violin (merit) and Grade 5 Music Theory (distinction).