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Application for Junior Software Engineering Program at Culture Amp

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am a recent graduate from the University of Queensland having completed my Bachelor of Science with majors in Mathematics and Computer Science. I'm interested in the increasing adoption of technology throughout our society, the effects it has on our lives and generally just technology in itself.

I completed quite a few interesting projects throughout my degree. There are two major projects that I want to describe briefly. The first was a project in the field of artificial intelligence, involving guiding a simplified model of a wheelchair through various environments of varying complexity. The project was completed in Java. We were taught two different methods to solve similar problems. The method that I used, Rapidly Exploring Random Trees (RRT), was covered very briefly in the lecture, actually just half a page of lecture notes. This meant that I needed to do significant research to be able to solve the problem, so I read through many research papers on the topic. I applied the knowledge that I gained from the research into my final project and received a distinction.

The second project was for the final course in my Computer Science degree. I took on the role of backend developer. Our group of six was tasked with creating a weather and travel recommendation application for a client. My role involved designing and developing an API for the frontend developers. I completed the API using Flask, a Python framework. To provide my frontend developers with data, I interacted with a MySQL database and Queensland Government SILO climate data sets. I also developed a token authorization system to ensure security of the application. This project helped develop my communication and collaboration skills significantly, especially relevant to working on a project as part of a team. Our client was very happy with our final product and my group received a distinction.

Outside of my university education, I've learnt quite a lot through my own study. One particular interest of mine has been in developing my functional programming skills. I'm quite comfortable using Clojure, having developed an application to scrape Reddit subreddits to download images from external websites. I've also been interested in automating system administration tasks. My proudest creation is a system using a combination of Bash and Python to automatically download and rename files from an external server to my media server.

Last year I became a Youth Leader at my church and joined the church band playing piano and keyboard. My role as Youth Leader involves leading Friday night activities and leading devotions and educational activities. Through my experience in these roles I've developed teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills that are essential in any role. I taught myself piano by ear and am now very proficient in improvisation. My interest was piqued partly because of the similarities between patterns in music and in mathematics.

I am also very experienced in living, working and communicating cross-culturally, as I have both Australian and Solomon Island roots. I was born in Solomon Islands, although my education was fully Australian-based. My project teams at university were also culturally diverse. My awareness and skill in dealing with different cultural norms and expectations, language barriers and strong diverse work teams helps me to be a good fit within increasingly diverse workplaces.

I believe this opportunity will give me a chance to apply the skills that I've learnt as well as learn useful new skills which will help in future roles. I believe I am a good candidate for the role and that I have a lot to offer Culture Amp.

I have included my resume for your consideration and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my application with you by phone, email, or at an interview. Sincerely,

Benjamin Henry Pally