Personal Statement­­­­

I am a second year student at Exeter University, reading Computer Science. Most of my academic experience is in Java with exposure to C, C++, Python, Microsoft Visual Basics and Haskell. I also have industrial experience in web design and mobile application development using HTML, CSS and Javascript.

I have used Java extensively as its versatility makes it ideal for University projects as well as being essential in industry. While it does have its rough patches, *(example)* I find Javascript very enjoyable to use. Using jQuery with HTML and CSS allows me to be creative and have an almost tangible end result, which I find very rewarding.

I spent the summer of 2014 working for Harlequin Computing Solutions, creating a mobile phone application that puts cyclists in touch with each other when they need help with a broken spoke or puncture. We used a technology called Cordova, which allows web applications to be run as a cross-platform mobile application.

Education

Amery Hill School: GCSEs

*September 2006 – July 2011*

I achieved four A\*s and six As at GCSE. I was awarded the Physics prize and was selected to take Additional Maths classes, in which I was one of only two in the year to achieve an A grade.

Alton College: A Levels

*September 2011 – June 2013*

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| --- | --- |
| Computing | A |
| Mathematics | A |
| Further Mathematics | B |

*Skills learnt:* Pascal, Windows Visual Basic

It was at Alton College that my interest in computer science was sparked, inspired by my tutor. I had not studied the subject before but I picked it up very quickly and it soon became by favourite subject. I learnt to program using the outdated Pascal, which as a strongly typed language with no exception handling or modern IDE taught me to have an eye for detail from the start. In my second year, our large coursework project was to write an application complete with user interface in Microsoft Visual Basic. This was a nice introduction into how to construct larger systems.

Exeter University: Reading Computer Science

*September 2013 – Present*

*Skills learnt:* Java, C, C++, C#, Objective-C, Python, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Ajax, Server-Side Programming in PHP, Functional Programming (Haskell), Test-Driven Development, Pair Programming, git, JUnit, UML, SQL, Linux Operating Systems, Networked Computer Architectures, Network Protocols, Understanding of Data Structures and Algorithms, Java Threading, Java Design Patterns, Java RMI, System Architectures, Agile Development Process (Scrum), UI Design and Prototyping, System Modelling, Software Maintenance, Software Reuse, Project Planning and Management, Formal Specification (Z), Logic Programming (Prolog), FSA, Database Normalisation, Philosophy and History of AI, Application and Consequences of AI,

I studied Computer Science and Mathematics in my first year and received a first and was awarded the Dean’s Commendation for my results. In my second year I decided to focus on Computer Science, as this is where my real passion lies and continued in September without Mathematics modules.

Raspberry Pi’s

Now in my second year, I hope to maintain the momentum from my first year. I have been appointed the Treasurer for Exeter University Computer Science Society and am also on the committee for the university’s Real Ale Society.

Skills

Air Cadets

*July 2010 – August 2013*

Having risen to the rank of Sergeant in only two years, the cadets gave me countless opportunities to build on my teamwork and leadership skills as well as learn a lot about respect and discipline. My duties included organising the evening’s events, teaching lessons and taking drill. Other duties included taking cadets on military exercises and instructing them on the ranges, where I was qualified as a shooting coach.

In my opinion, the most valuable thing that I gained from cadets was confidence; whether it’s public speaking or simply having the confidence to make decisions, I feel that I am a better person for it. My only regret is not joining the corps sooner.

I have used Java extensively as its versatility makes it ideal for University projects as well as being essential in industry. However I really enjoyed spending the summer learning Javascript for a small mobile/web application. I find procedural languages very fun and easy to work with which is why I enjoyed using Python during my first year (an excellent teaching language), coupled with the creative aspects of HTML and CSS, which I also enjoyed with Visual Basics while still retaining a certain amount of challenge for example comprehending closures. I also enjoyed writing C during one of my modules and it’s bare bones necessity feel in stark contrast to Java’s extensive libraries and enjoyed the challenge of using pointers to create a linked list from scratch. Haskell was also challenging but rewarding, requiring a completely different mindset to the languages I had used before.

After my first year at Exeter University I spent 7 weeks over the summer working for Harlequin Computing Solutions, developing a mobile phone application for cyclists called RescYouMe. This was my first experience working in industry and I took a lot away from it.

My time was split between pair programming and working alone, as well as being very involved in the development and planning of the project. While coding in a pair I learnt a lot by working with someone more experienced as well as how to program effectively in a team. While alone I developed my personal discipline skills as I was often given a task and worked on it by myself, with a result expected at the end of the day.

We developed the app using a technology called Cordova, which allows webpages written in HTML, CSS and JavaScript to be built as a platform independent mobile phone application. I was tasked with doing a lot of research into the technology we would use and it was very exciting, both in having a strong influence on the project but also in using technologies I hadn’t used before such as jQuery and Cordova. I also learnt about the development lifecycle first hand and was introduced to tools like Git and programming paradigms such as Extreme Programming and test-driven development, which has influenced how I work at university.

Employment History

Harlequin Computing Solutions

*Full time: June 2014 – September 2014*

*Skills used:* HTML, CSS, Javascript, jQuery, git, Java, Extreme Programming, Test-Driven Development, Pair Programming, Cordova, iOS Development, Android Development, use of APIs

*Role overview:* Help theorize, design and implement mobile phone application for cyclists requiring assistance. Researched and analysed which technologies to use. Wrote a lot of the code base for the mobile phone application using HTML, CSS and Javascript. In particular used native APIs to use the devices map application from within ours.

*Interesting challenges:* As my first experience working in industry it was a steep learning curve. I was used to solving problems to which I already knew how to solve to having to deal with problems that had no certain solution. I also was learning Javascript while working.

References

Duncan McGregor

*Company: Harlequin Computing Solutions*

*Mobile Phone: +44 7811 276953*

*E-Mail Address: duncan@oneeyedmen.com*