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 written with HTML, CSS and Javascript to be run as a cross-platform mobile application.

Education

Amery Hill School: GCSEs

*September 2006 – July 2011*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mathematics | A\* | Additional Mathematics | A |
| Physics | A\* | Geography | A |
| Biology | A\* | Religious Studies | A |
| Chemistry | A\* | Art and Design | B |
| English Language | A | German | C |
| English Literature | A | Information Technology (DiDA) | Pass |
| Design and Technology:  Systems and Control | A |

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*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AS Computing | A | A2 Computing | A |
| AS Mathematics | A | A2 Mathematics | A |
| AS Further Mathematics | A | A2 Further Mathematics | B |
| AS Physics | B |

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 I learnt to program using the outdated Pascal, which as a strongly typed language with no exception handling or modern IDE taught me to have an eye for detail from the start.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*

My first year studying at Exeter University was very successful. I achieved 90% in most assignments and maintained these results throughout the year. I received a first and was awarded the Dean’s Commendation for my excellent results.

I studied Computer Science and Mathematics in my first year. I soon realised that my heart was in computer science and that I did not have the interest to maintain the level of work necessary for mathematics. I believe it is not a good show of character to give up on something half way through so I continued with mathematics until the end of the year and now study Computer Science. Despite this I was very pleased to still received firsts in most of my mathematics modules.

Now in my second year, I hope to maintain this momentum. I have been appointed as the Treasurer for Exeter University Computer Science Society and am also on the committee for the university’s Real Ale Society. These two societies benefitted me greatly during my first year, both by introducing me to good friends and maintaining a healthy social life and by providing excellent opportunities in the form of meeting potential employers and running events such as hackathons. I wanted to give something back and ensure that future students have the same opportunities as I did so joining the committee teams was an obvious choice.

I am on course to leave Exeter with a first and am currently considering doing a Masters Degree at Exeter University or Imperial College London.

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.

Since the end of the summer I have been promised more work on a part time basis during term time and full time employment while at home during holidays.

Employment History

Harlequin Computing Solutions

*Full time: June 2014 – September 2014*

Skills used:

Role overview:

Interesting challenges:

References

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