Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing to apply to the Blackstone's Software Engineer – Analyst position, listed on my school's job board, Handshake. I am graduating from Stony Brook University in May 2018 with a double major in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, and am seeking a software engineering position where I will be able to apply the software engineering and problem-solving skills I have cultivated through my education, projects, and past internships.

Through my coursework, I have gained experience using JavaScript libraries for visualization, designing relational databases and using SQL, developing full stack web applications, and using enterprise application frameworks such as Spring. I gained this experience through semester-long projects, often involving teamwork. My education has not only helped me develop skills in these specific technologies, but also given me experience in architecting solutions and working effectively in a team.

My professional experience includes working in software development at my university, and Citigroup. I have worked as a part time software developer at my university for over a year, where I have been developing and maintaining enterprise applications used in administrative departments, primarily in .NET and AngularJS. At my time here, I have often quickly learned large code bases in order to quickly and accurately fix bugs and add new features to existing applications. Additionally, I have gained strong requirement gathering skills, as the administrative nature of these applications requires a keen attention to detail with regards to business requirements.

As a Technology Summer Analyst at Citigroup, I gained experience in enterprise application development for financial markets. I used Java, Spring, and an internal framework to develop a testing tool that interacted with different components of the Credit eTrading architecture. I delivered the tool with more features than originally planned, such as features for batch testing, and presented it to the global Credit eTrading team, who soon began using the tool to improve development and testing processes. I became deeply interested in the combined challenges of software engineering and finance.

I have also developed strong interpersonal and communication skills through teaching positions. I served as a Computer Science III Teaching Assistant at Stony Brook University for two semesters, where I explained concepts and answered questions regarding course material and assignments. As a Teaching Assistant at Girls Who Code, I lectured on topics such as Python and Web Development, and held weekly individual discussions with students. I've learned that miscommunications can be a major cause of inefficiency in delivering projects correctly and on time, and that the ability to give explanations of technical concepts to any audience is crucial.

Throughout my time at Stony Brook University, I have sought out and involved myself in opportunities to strengthen my technical and interpersonal skills, and believe that my experience and interest in enterprise application development and financial services is a strong fit for the Software Engineer – Analyst role at Blackstone. I look forward to discussing further, and can be reached at 718-724-4603, or at elizabeth.williams.1@stonybrook.edu.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Williams