Switched

**Tell me about yourself?**

Well, I’ve been studying computer science for 4 years in Greece and currently, I am about to finish my postgraduate studies in the department of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton. Last month I obtained a scholarship for starting a PhD in the field of blockchain cybersecurity.

Over these years, I’ve worked as a blockchain cybersecurity researcher, and last year I worked as a software engineer in a small startup in Greece. During this time, I was also leading some local technological organizations like IEEE and a cryptocurrency community that I created.

So far, I’ve been involved in some blockchain projects but only for research or academic purposes. And now I am working on the implementation of a blockchain based DNS which is actually the topic which I’m going to deal with in my PhD research.

**What are your strengths?**

My greatest strength is my ability to work successfully with a team to solve a problem. I can also work to tight deadlines under pressure. For example, I was once asked to complete a big project in my university’s laboratory while at the same time I was studying for my bachelor’s degree. The team asked for a new solution to a problem, and they thought that I was able to help. After an efficient allocation of my time and my work the project managed to finish on time and the results were really satisfactory.

**What is your greatest weakness?**

Sometimes, if I have to face very complex and big problems, I don’t have so much attention to details. One the one hand this is good for me because it lets me execute quickly the tasks and therefore give a fast solution for the problem, but on the other hand sometimes I make careless mistakes. As a result, I feel more confident and more secure if someone else is able to check my work again and give feedback before I submit it.

**What motivates you?**

I definitely love working as a part of a team. I enjoy discussing ways to move forward with teammates, and I love to respectfully debate others to ensure we are moving in the right direction. On top of that, I take pride in the work that I do, and it is humbling whenever I see a product or service being used in the real world that I was a part of.

**Why are you looking for jobs?**

I’m looking for opportunities to start my career in the software engineering domain. Working as a front-end developer has given me abundant experience in working with various issues, so I’m ready to take the next step in my career. I feel especially qualified for this particular position because both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies are related to the software engineering domain. I’m more than ready to start my career and would be excited for it to be with you.

**Why do you think you are the best fit for this role?/Why Should We Hire You?**

I will start with the most obvious argument. All these years both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies are related to software engineering. Therefore, I believe that I have gained a lot of knowledge on this domain as I have attended a wide range of courses related to software engineering. But the most important thing is that I have worked as a front-end developer in in a startup, so, I was given the opportunity to get involved in a big project and apply my academic knowledge and skills in practice. Over this period, I collaborated with other experienced people in the area and gained a lot of experience working with them. So, I believe that my academic knowledge in combination with my professional experience can provide solution new problems that will be assigned to me in this position.

**What made you want to work for Switched?**

Why do you like our company?

From the first time I started dealing with technology I was looking for innovative ideas that offer something different. I can see this combination of innovation and differentiation in Switch, and this is the reason that caught my attention and therefore I would like to be part of the success of this team.

Why do you like this position?

So, I decided to apply for this position because initially it is a position in a company which I am interested in because of its mission. Also, this position is very relevant to my studies and therefore I believe that it can help me to develop and improve my skills in this domain. I also consider it a very good opportunity to get in touch with experienced people and to expand my skills by learning from them. So, combining my knowledge and the experience I am going to gain, I believe that I can offer solutions to the problems that are going to arise in this position and therefore help the company to evolve.

**What do you know about this role?**

From the job description, I understand that Switch is looking for candidates that will be able to demonstrate technical competence, self-motivation and a passion for software engineering and more specifically for back-end development. I also understand that you need someone with a computer science background with a portfolio of different projects. It sounds like many of the daily tasks include customer interaction, code automation and implementation of new products which are some things that I am really interested in.

**What is your dream/goal?**

Right now, my main goal is to get my master's degree. So, after I finish my studies, I would like to start working in the real-world industry and do what I have learned over the years. My goal is to work with large companies and to be able to gather as much supplies as possible from them. At the same time, I really like working and experimenting with my own ideas, and one of my dreams is maybe one to create my own successful company.

**What projects have you been involved in and you found them interesting?**

I have worked on many important projects throughout my career. The most recent project I was involved, was one year ago during my research period, where I was assigned with a project related to a blockchain authentication mechanism in Microgrids. I outlined the major milestones that would be involved in completing the project and worked backwards to break down the work that would need to be done at each stage. I created a list of all the technical knowledge I had to use, and I then added some extra time to the schedule in case anything unexpected came up. I also made sure that my role and responsibilities in the project were as clear as possible, so I knew exactly what I had to do. The project was completed on time, but looking back, I realize there were some problems that could have been avoided. For example, I would have changed my working hours in order to avoid some of the minor scheduling problems we ran into. I found this project interesting because of the impact it had on the community (I mean, nowadays echo friendly solutions and blockchain technology are very popular and I was excited that I had the opportunity to work in a project like that). I also enjoyed working with the rest of the lab members. I think it was such a joy to be able to be a member of the team and see a project from start to finish. I really learned a lot about teamwork, communication and the most important thing...the importance of making and sticking to a plan.

**What values can you bring us?/How can you help the company?**

In my last job experience as front-end developer, I was involved in various innovations, including ways to improve teamwork. I was asked to conjure up ideas and find solutions to different problems, and several times my ideas were chosen as the best. My problem-solving abilities allow me to work extremely well under pressure, which I understand is a common occurrence in this role. In my previous job experience, I had to decide different things such as “how to implement different features”, but I had a limited amount of time to make a decision because at the same time I was also a student. I was able to schedule and prioritize all my tasks quickly and therefore get things done efficiently. Not only can I bring these ideas with me, but I am also a keen proponent of innovation in general as I believe it drives progress. I believe that I can bring the same interest and motivation for making an impact at Switched.

**What are your salary expectations?**

For this position my ideal salary would fall in the range of 30000-38000 pounds. I feel this is an appropriate amount for my experience level in this position.

**Are you interviewing with other companies?**

While I feel this role is the better fit for what I’m looking for, I am in discussions with three-four other employers.

**How many hours can you work?**

From what I already know, university courses last about 2-3 hours a day and given that everything is online, the time saving is greater. So, given this situation I consider that I have 4 hours available during the day to work.

**My questions:**

1. How many people does the development team have?
2. Can you tell me about the team? Do the members in the team come only from the same scientific field?
3. What does a typical day look like for someone who works on this role?