F-Secure

**Tell me about yourself?**

My name is George Giamouridis and I am from Greece.

I am a postgraduate student in the department of Electronics and Computer Science at University of Southampton with a major in cybersecurity.

My background is also computer science. I did my undergrad at University of Piraeus in Greece where I have been also leading different technological organizations like my university’s IEEE branch and a community called “Blockchainers”. My passion lies in Blockchain technology, Cryptography, Cybersecurity, and Data Security in general.

During the last year of my undergrad, I was working as an academic researcher in my university’s systems security laboratory in topics related to secure blockchain solutions. I have also worked as a Front-End developer in a startup called “University Opportunities”

Outside of my studies and work, I've participated in some hackathons and some entrepreneur competitions.

And right now, I’m looking for a company to start working with in order to start my career.

**What are your strengths?**

*Answer:*

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. Not only did the project have to go out on time, but the solution had to be pioneering. After an efficient allocation of my time and my work the project managed to finish on time and the result was really positive.

**What is your greatest weakness?**

*Answer:*

Sometimes, if I have to face very complex and big problems, I don’t have so much attention to detail. 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?**

*Answer:*

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?**

*Answer:*

I’m looking for opportunities to start my career in the cybersecurity domain. Working as an academic researcher has given me abundant experience in working with security 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 security domain. I’m more than ready to start my security career and would be excited for it to be with your company.

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

*Answer:*

I will start with the most obvious argument. All these years both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies are related to information systems security. 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 information systems security. But the most important thing is that I have worked as an academic researcher in the information systems security laboratory of my university. So, I was given the opportunity to get involved in various projects and apply my academic knowledge and skills in practice. Over this period, I collaborated with 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 research experience can provide a solution to real world problems that will be assigned to me in this position.

**What made you want to work for F-Secure?**

*Answer:*

Why do you like our company?

5 years ago, I had my first experience with the F-secure using one of its products (to be precise it was an antivirus software). I was very happy with the product and that left me with a positive opinion. So, I searched more for this company and realized that it is a company with over 30 years of experience in the field of security, global experience and of course experience and influence on important customers such as banks.

Why do you like this position?

So, I decided to apply for this position because initially it is a position in this company which I am interested in for the reasons I mentioned before. 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?**

*Answer:*

From the job description, I understand that F-secure is looking for candidates that will be able to demonstrate technical competence, self-motivation and a passion for security. I also understand that you need someone with a computer background with security interests, while I have both. It sounds like many of the daily tasks include training courses, research to a chosen area and shadowing F-Secure's consultants on real-life engagements 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 to create something of my own and finally to be able to live from it.

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

*Answer:*

I have worked on many important projects throughout my career. What's really crucial for me when starting one is to get very clear on the goals right at the start and then create a plan with milestones. I typically break down large tasks into smaller chunks, so that it is easier to know where to start. Detailed planning is very important to me in order to ensure an important project goes smoothly. For example, last year I have had the pleasure of working on the implementation of 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. The discussions we had about the implementation methods, the technologies that we are going to use, and the general outcome were just exhilarating. 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?**

*Answer:*

In my last job experience as an academic researcher, 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 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 projects and ideas”, 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 F-secure.

**What do you know about web application vulnerabilities?**

*Answer:*

* Related to a system flaw or weakness in a web-based application
* Happens due to not validating or sanitizing form inputs, misconfigured web servers, and application design flaws, and they can be exploited to compromise the application’s security
* These vulnerabilities are not the same as other common types of vulnerabilities, such as network or asset
* They arise because web applications need to interact with multiple users across multiple networks, and that level of accessibility is easily taken advantage of by adversaries
* Some of the most common web application vulnerabilities: SQL injection, Cross Site Scripting (XSS), Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF) and Authentication bypass

**What are your salary expectations?**

*Answer:*

For this position my ideal salary would fall in the range of 2000 pounds to 2500 pounds. I feel this is an appropriate amount for my experience level in this position.

**Are you interviewing with other companies?**

*Answer:*

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

**Tell us about your skills?**

*Answer:*

Because of my studies, I have a very strong computer science and algorithmic background. My passion lies in Blockchain technology, Cryptography, Cybersecurity, and Data Security. Most of my experience is related to blockchain networks, security in them as well as the implementation of such types of networks. I have a deep knowledge of blockchain technology, and I have experience in designing private networks using Hyperledger Fabric and Composer and public networks using Ethereum. My knowledge also includes networks/applications security and cybersecurity analysis.