I am a Fast Learner!

I know nothing about web development a month ago. When I finished my first year in college, however, I realized that I would be searching for jobs for my first co-op term very soon. I was kind of scared since I didn’t know which kind of job I could apply. After some researches, I found out that my interest lies in web development.

After deciding what to learn, my speed of learning web development languages was surprisingly fast. I went on Udacity and took several online courses there, then after two days I found that I was able to construct some simple websites.

A week after, I was able to build the skeleton of this website, but it was full of bugs and did not look as good as it is now. I was a little discouraged by its looking at first, but then by I realized my potential to adapt myself to new programming languages is enormous.

Two weeks after I learned HTML, CSS and JavaScript and participated in the Waterloo Equithon 2017, where I built a website with another 3 students using the same model as this one. It was a pretty neat website and you can check the link here to look it up. From all the web developing experiences mentioned above, I realized that I still have a lot to learn in the future, but I also feel confident about my future as an artistic developer who can master skills really fast!

As a CS student in University of Waterloo, I learned C and C++ from CS 136 and CS 246 respectively. I got an A on CS 136, which is about C, and CS 246, which is about C++, is in progress.

C is really a magical language, but you have to do everything on your own. (I think that's why C programmers are usually kind of arrogant XD). Learning C helped me a lot in terms of understanding the memory model (stack, heap, etc), control flow of a program (if statement, all kinds of loops, etc), and most importantly, Abstract Data Type.

ADT is the programming in C that is related to realistic application the most I learned, and I developed a good idea of how they work and how to implement them thanks to CS 136. For assignments in class, I implemented about 10 ADTs myself, all of them with very good feedback: the TA was extremely impressed because they were not only bug free but also well documented.

As a CS student studying at the University of Waterloo, I have three to five assignments due each week. The heavy workload is not a bad thing for me, since they help me develop my time management skills and stop my procrastination. I believe I have developed a strong sense of punctuality and discipline through my short college life: I never missed a single deadline in my whole university life and I hope I will carry this good record on to my whole life.

I am really good at group working. I was the team leader of the Hackathon event that was memtioned in "My skills - Web", I distributed works to members of the group, and I also worked as a member of a team, following other's lead and implemented my part of code when I was in high school. So I'm pretty well-rouned, and in most cases my works received pretty good feedback from whoever viewed them.

This is where I began to know the world, to grow up, from a boy, to a man.

We always hear people say that the environment one is living in has a crucial influence on one's personality, and that is abolutely correct. Here at No.28 Middle school, I met a great mentor and a whole class of awosome guys who totally changed my life path.

Under their inpact, I learned the importance of hard working - IQ is a significant factor to determine one's potential, but it is not the only one. It is us that really decide what we really want to be. This becomes my motto since the first time I heard about it.

Academically, I didn't learn anything that is professional, since it was only at middle school, but I did develop my interest and ability to carry on into the field of math and science.

If No.28 Middle school is where I get to know what to learn, No.2 High school is where I actually learned knowledge. At No.2 High School, I laid a solid basis for my career in mathematics to go on through two years’ hard working in basic knowledge of math, physics, chemstry, biology, etc., and this is where I choose science, specifically math, to be the one that is with me whole my life.

However, knowledge is not the only thing I acquired at No.2 high school. The most important fortune that I got there is the interpersonal skills to make friends. I'm not a nerd who studys all day long. It's said that the friends made in high school are truly the lifetime friends. I totally agree with that idea. Now my friends are studying all kinds of different fields, but it does not get in our way of sharing ideas about how the world goes; on the contrary we learn new ideas from each other every time we met!

The two years at No.2 High school is undoubtedly the most memorable and precious period in my 19 years life.

The decision to study abroad in Canada was made since I discovered my interest in Computer Science, and I need some time to adapt myself with Canadian life style. This is why I tell people that NOIC is the bridge between me and the university.

One year at NOIC was the most relaxed but also the most fruitful year in my life. Unlike high school in China, where I almost wrote papers and did all kinds of practice questions for a whole bunch of exams everyday, here at NOIC, what I did is hanging out everyday! Since I had learned all the science courses in China, all I needed to do was to learn English. I went to Montreal during the break in March. I did volunteer works - cooking meals at a church for homeless people. I visited every interesting place in Toronto. This year was full of fun. On the other hand, I did not throw my academic away - I developed my interest in CS for a higher level, I learned Java on my own, and I achieved 1% of the Euclid Contest held by the Math faculty of the University of Waterloo! It was really a great time!

This is where I really began to pursue my dream--to be a computer programmer, and design some amazing APPs to change the world!

I improved my programming skills to an even more advanced level and learned more languages through taking a variety of courses involving C, C++, HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Racket.[Check my skills here](https://h59guo.github.io/skills.html) I became a specialist in analyzing problems, thanks to the statistics and logic courses the school offers.

I also met many brilliant friends here, as well as some talented professors, my story at the University of Waterloo, has just started.

(I'll finish this part when I graduate.)