

JACOBASHDOWN

UK: 07791384769 Honduras:0050496916501
jcbashdown@googlemail.com

Currently based in Tegucigalpa Honduras. Available to work in London or remotely from August 18th.

Qualifications:

Postgraduate:

- Durham University: MSc Internet systems and E-business

Undergraduate:

- Durham University: BA Hons Politics Philosophy and Economics (2:1).

Skills:

- **Software engineering** - Since the start of my masters I have accumulated 6 months experience in **Java** and **Java remoting** for academic projects. The following six months up to October 2010 were spent building academic **Ruby on Rails** projects included a dissertation involving search technologies (**Ferret** in this case) and academic PHP projects (including a **semantic search** and **web crawling** project). Having finished my masters I worked for three months over the summer for Engineers Without Borders on a **PHP** based slum data collection and handling project in Pune India. From November 2010 until May 2011 I worked for Spoonfed Media as a junior **Rails** developer on their Bullseye platform (a subscription based event marketing tool) and continued some work related to the EWB project in my spare time. Spoonfed was an agile development environment using **Git for version control**, **Assembla** for **ticketing**, **Rspec** (among other technologies) for **BDD unit testing**, daily **scrums** and **pair programming**. We deployed to Amazon **EC2 Linux** images and over my time there and subsequently (having switched to **Linux** as my primary OS) I gained substantial experience in these techniques and technologies. From May until June I travelled and studied Spanish in Central America but am now based in Tegucigalpa Honduras. I have just finished the final prototype of a Freelance **PHP** project - an Art website with custom Micro CMS built with **Codeigniter** and **Doctrine**. I am now beginning work on a **Kohana** plugin for **Ushahidi** to build on some more intelligent report verifying and social network aspects into the platform and have an ongoing **Rails** project with a friend in the UK.
- **GIS** - A large part of the work of the EWB partner organisation's work in India involves GIS and so this was a skill gained to understand the organisation.
- **Statistics and data analysis** - As a result of modules on Econometrics I have a good understanding of and skill in statistics. I am able to use advanced statistical techniques such as regression analysis. I have used both Excel and Access extensively in performing data and accounts analysis.
- **Research and analysis** - The last four years in academia and my research experience as a policy intern with the Liberal Democrats mean I am experienced in lifting relevant data and ideas from sources such as academic journals and texts. I am able to present this information clearly and succinctly and am proficient in its analysis.
- **Business planning and proposal writing** - I have experience in producing properly researched and costed business plans for the e-business side of my MSc and have studied business and project management techniques in this setting. While in India I produced analyses of project proposals and have written

standard form log frames.

- **Spanish** - Having travelled and lived in an overwhelmingly Spanish speaking region for 7 weeks now, and having completed 2 weeks of Spanish immersion courses (5 speaking and 3 hours of homework a day) in that time, I consider myself at a good level given this experience and expect to improve greatly over the next 6-7 weeks (including undertaking one more week of immersion).

Experience:

- **Team experience** - Last year I led a team of 5 international postgraduates while we produced an in depth business plan. In India I worked with another volunteer in a largely self supervised effort to produce two linked applications from scratch. I learnt a lot about managing dependencies and the necessity of agreed good practice in writing code. This led me to hugely appreciate the agile project management techniques we employed at Spoonfed.
- **Self reliance** - I planned and made an overland trip from the UK to China and back on a Gap year in 2006. I have completed comprehensive literature reviews of issues in social policy as an intern at the Liberal Democrat's policy office. I have taken on my own projects in order to learn more about technologies and techniques I'm interested in.
- **Organisational and managerial roles** - Most recently I managed a team of three at Spoonfed in the manual work associated with the part of the application I was lead developer on (event broadcasting). Over the last 9 months I have been the placement manager planning the continuation of my EWB placement and finding, interviewing and selecting the next volunteers.

Character and attitude:

- **Learning and overcoming challenges** - I am a quick and self sufficient learner both in terms of advancing my existing skills and in picking up new ones. A demonstration of this is my continued interest in both of my university subjects (particularly in my own projects) and that I am currently learning Spanish primarily by immersion.
- **Leadership** - My emergence as an informal group leader in many situations (outside of paid management experience) has come partly because I am quick to understand and quick to be able to explain. Having studied philosophy I am a clear and structured thinker - a useful skill in such situations.
- **Communication and teamwork** - My MSc was predominantly international students who did not speak English as a first language. Frequent group work situations here meant I became a proficient communicator. My work in India and time learning Spanish now have involved overcoming communication challenges both professionally and day to day.

Job History:

- Freelance and own projects - (Mar 2011 - Aug 2011). These include an artists homepage with simple custom CMS (PHP), A collaborative project on knowledge mapping with flex (just Actionscript so far though) and Ruby on Rails and an Ushahidi plugin to allow reputation based report verification (PHP). Ask for code samples, progress soon to be available in a Github repository.
- Spoonfed Media - Bullseyehub junior developer RoR (Nov 2010 - May 2011).
- Engineers Without Borders web placement volunteer, Shelter Associates (Jun - Sep 2010)
- Internship - Liberal Democrat Policy and Research office (2008)
- Management of archives, data entry - Barcan Woodward solicitors (2007-2009).
- Call centre worker - Yellow Pages (2005-6)