# Liam McKenna

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#### Summary

Master's student in Computer Science specializing in computer graphics and video game development, with demonstrable proficiency in C++, C#, GLSL, and HLSL. Expertise in designing robust and streamlined software systems, formed through extensive development experience in Unity, Unreal Engine, and self-authored 3D application programming. Eager to gain real-world experience in the design and development of commercial video games and video game engines.

## EDUCATION

# Master of Science (M.S.), Computer Science

University of Florida, Kyoto University

Expected Spring 2026 Gainesville, FL

# Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Computer Science

University of Florida

Summer 2024 Gainesville, FL

• GPA: 3.58/4.00 (Cum Laude)

• Minor: Digital Arts and Sciences (Game Development)

## EXPERIENCE

#### Academic Researcher

Fall 2025 - Present

Kyoto University — Project AirSim

Kyoto, JP

- Studied and worked within Unreal Engine's C++ source code to develop the fork used for computer vision research
- Implemented advanced rendering techniques into Unreal Engine 5 through self-authored HLSL shader development

## Academic Researcher

Jan 2025 - Summer 2025

University of Florida SurfLab

Gainesville, FL

- Investigated experimental approaches to producing global illumination in a real-time OpenGL environment
- Attained performant pixel-accurate shadow casting of complex NURBS surfaces with novel use of past research

## Software Development Intern

Summer 2023

United Wholesale Mortagae

Pontiac. MI

- Garnered applied experience in agile software development principles by operating under the scrum framework
- Developed an integrated software stability inspector with C# for end-to-end use in proprietary software

# Projects

# APGP | Multipurpose Custom 3D Rendering Environment

Fall 2024 - Summer 2025

C++, OpenGL, GLSL

GitHub

- Created a highly modular real-time 3D application in C++ using the OpenGL graphics API
- Implemented an Entity-Component System (ECS), Scene Graph, and support for Physically-Based Rendering (PBR)
- Engineered fully dynamic Lua script insertion, asset management, and scene generation at runtime

## PowerLine | Original Minecraft Multiplayer Minigame

Fall 2025

Java

GitHub | Play Game

- Led the full development cycle of a novel multiplayer game mode for Minecraft through custom plugin programming
- Achieved publication on the popular and selective Minecraft minigame hosting platform, StickyPiston

# Topposition | Procedurally Generated Game Built on Custom 2D Engine

Fall 2023

C++, SFML

GitHub | Presentation

- Developed a feature-complete strategy game in a proprietary engine boasting a procedurally generated terrain system
- Presented a lecture to UF's game development club, DevLUp, on the lessons learned throughout development

# Itch.io Showcase | Extended Game Development Portfolio

Fall 2022 - Present

Unity, C#, Batch

Portfolio

- Attained extensive experience working in Unity and C# scripting from the development of several unique projects
- Achieved multiple top placements and academic recognition in game jams, hackathons, and class projects

## Technical Skills

Languages: C++, C#, GLSL, HLSL, Lua, Java, Batch

Tools & Frameworks: Unreal Engine, Unity, OpenGL, DirectX, Blender, Maya, Visual Studio

Specialized Knowledge: Graphics Programming, Game Engine Architecture Design, 3D Modeling (Portfolio)