

Applicant Name: **Geoffrey Gordon Ashbrook**

Position: Data Science Intern

Company: Shopify

Date: 2020.09.03

Source: Lambda School

Application Page: [Here](#)

Online Version of Materials: [Here](#)

Two Essay Questions:

1. Why are you interested in doing an internship with Shopify?

This Shopify internship is a chance for me to realize my goal of training at a serious and well organized company from which I can learn competent practices, both those particular to my role, and those involving the culture and norms within a data driven business.

Helping society benefits everyone. Shopify's services appeal to me because I have long advocated for using data to help society. In the first chapter of my work-life I worked as a science teacher at companies and schools because of my belief that education and communication are of high value to society. Now I feel I can help society with Data Science by helping Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) to use and learn from their data. As a lover of the interdisciplinary and applied, helping employers make data driven decisions is a great place to apply my talents.

Using data to help society is important at all times, but in this age of covid-19 I am particularly motivated to find work that allows me to help the many vital SMEs that are the lifeblood of the international community. As the question was asked during and after both world wars "What did you do during the war?" It is important to me that during these times I do everything possible to stand for social justice and to empower as many people in their livelihoods as possible.

I am captivated by the type of work that the Data Science team does at Shopify. The DS challenge for this application was incredibly interesting and fun (diving into a complete story about a business from clues buried in data) and I am eager to continue working on this kind of fascinating analysis.

2. Why are you the right person for this role? (This is a great place to tell us anything interesting about yourself that might not be indicated on your resume)

Many know the classic scenario of the University classroom full of unfocused young students and a few 'older' students (the 30 and 40 year olds) who reliably attend, focus, take notes, talk with the professor, engage with the material, ask serious questions, and perform well. I am that older student. I have work experience and team project experience. I am serious, focused, ready to engage, eager to learn, and ready to work.

A broad background is an asset. I have a broad background across the sciences (having been a science teacher) as well as computer science (having worked in AI research as an undergrad). I have also worked for a dozen small businesses over the years, and have tried to start my own more than once, which should help me to see from your clients' perspectives. As Shopify grows into new areas, from fulfillment and banking to multiple language integration, having an intern or employee who is actively interested in all these areas will be an asset.

The right mindset can make a world of difference. From my background in the scouts to team project work in Education, my experience has strongly impressed on me the importance of Agile type best practice and positive values.

Lastly, I am strongly motivated by helping others, which has been a common thread throughout my past career and life, and likewise I will be motivated to help your clients. From my choice to become a science teacher, to my choice after the tsunami in Japan to change jobs and move into the affected areas, I am fully engaged when it comes to helping others. I truly believe in the work Shopify and their data science team are doing and am genuinely motivated to help your clients. I believe you need someone who will engage and follow through with the work. That is me.