Lilly Sharples

Upcoming CS Grad

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Lilly Sharples
252 Ruth Street
Athens, GA 30605
919.798.6418
lilly.sharples@gmail.com

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Dear Hiring Manager,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to the Engineer role at SoundCloud. I am still a student (graduating May 2022), and am figuring out exactly what role I would like to pursue after graduation. Many of the roles I have seen listed on the careers page ask for more years of experience than I have, so I thought I would include this cover letter to go more in depth of why I am interested in a role at SoundCloud. I have used SoundCloud as my primary music app for most of my life. With that being said, there are improvements I wish I could make, and joining the team would allow me to help make my favorite music app even better.

Until a few weeks ago, I was planning to pursue my Master's in Artificial Intelligence from UGA, an accelerated program I was accepted into as a sophomore. Since this acceptance, I have been able to take multiple graduate level courses, including Data Mining, Artificial Intelligence, and Human Computer Interaction. These courses allowed me to work on projects with graduate students and get more hands-on experience within the topics I am interested in. However, I made the decision to drop this M.S degree after deciding the graduate courses already taken have set me up well to join a company after graduating. As a potential candidate, I bring the partial technical experience of a graduate student, minus the thesis and research hours.

My previous role at IBM as a DevOps Engineer Intern taught me a lot about the communication and time management needed when working in tech. I held this role as a full-time summer intern from May-August, and part-time on top of school from August-December. As the first and only intern on a team based out of Japan, it was difficult to find time to ask questions or speak with members of my team. It was common to have meetings at 7AM or 9PM, in order to coincide with the 14 hour time difference. I learned a lot about how to get work done when I couldn't ask for help, as well as being responsible for doing my work without having someone constantly watching over me.

I am now interning as a SWE at an early stage startup, where I am learning about the life cycle of a company and product. I am mainly building out the frontend, learning ReactNative and JavaScript to do so. In this role, I have learned that I am interested in UI/UX, and enjoy seeing my code come to life. For the next step in my career, I am interested in a Data Science, ML, SWE, or Product Management role, and believe my outgoing, dependable, and driven personality will make me a great fit for SoundCloud.

Sincerely,

Lilly Sharples