

My journey across the ocean of knowledge of computer science began simply, with a *Hello World* program in a ninth grade creative programming class. It was written in the beginner-friendly *Processing* language, which allows programmers and artists to easily create visuals on a virtual canvas. For some reason, I was the only one in my class to become fascinated with the power I had acquired there - of giving instructions to a machine, and having it execute them flawlessly, consistently. From then on I started making games and data visualization projects with the language, as a hobby.

At the end of high school, I began to try to understand how my computer orchestrated the execution of my programs behind the scenes, and that's when I realized that all the technologies we take for granted in our daily lives are, in fact, the result of hundreds of years of academic advancement, and extreme engineering. Few are interested in understanding how our technology stacks work, even though we depend on them for all kinds of online services, which are a huge part of modern life. I want to understand them, and do my best to contribute to them in any way possible. To this end, I must dedicate myself to working on it.

Today, I am a computer science degree holder, having been through a few long, intense years in a programme heavily oriented toward software engineering in multidisciplinary collaborative projects. I have a fundamental theoretical understanding of several areas of computing, and I have a portfolio that demonstrates my mastery of several important, modern development tools and technologies. Throughout my course, I have always embraced challenges, and I always feel fulfilled in learning how to use a new tool and figuring out how to solve a new class of problems with it.

I recognize, however, that my experience, at age 21, is limited, and I am open to learning whatever it takes to gain a complete view of our available development tools and disciplines. Deep down, I like to solve problems, and I want to contribute to the development of smart and safe cities and services. Eventually I would like to return to my hometown and help improve its information and communications technology infrastructure. It is an ambitious goal, and for that I need experience in putting together well designed online information systems. I am excited about the prospect of working in challenging environments, and continuously learning things I cannot yet anticipate. I hope to be able to develop the skills that will allow me to work on innovative projects that make our world smarter, safer and more sustainable. This is how I want to continue my journey through this ocean.