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MAC WALKER

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Dear Tony Blair Institute hiring team

I believe AI will be the most important development of this century - it will radically alter society in a way we have never seen before. Integrating this technology into the offerings and function of the state is an imperative. This is one of the most important tasks of this next decade - one I would be proud to work on, particularly within an organisation such as the TBI, whose AI incubator is dedicated to revolutionising public services through AI.

I am incredibly aligned with the goals and mission of the Tony Blair Institute. Having attended a state comprehensive in the north of England, I was a beneficiary of increased standards of state education that came from the New Labour government. I was lucky to attend NTU Singapore on a year abroad during my undergraduate studies - this experience solidified my conviction in the transformative power of good governance and policies.

I have a passion for building socially beneficial AI. I have deep technical experience with Python and the ML engineering stack, including Pandas, NumPy, PyTorch, NLP, deep learning and generative AI. This has been developed through academic research into Gaussian Processes, biological foundation models and mechanistic interpretability, personal projects, and professional experience.

My professional research engineering experience at an AI start up resulted in a novel neural network architecture for optical flow estimation. I have attended numerous hackathons; one notable project involved developing an AI tutor that dynamically adapted its style and content based on the user's existing knowledge.

I am skilled at communicating technical concepts to a broad range of non-technical stakeholders and policy makers, having developed these skills through Agile product management experience at Wood Mackenzie, where I delivered a risk management strategy to be implemented across software engineering and product teams, and my role on the committee on the Cambridge AI Safety Hub. This role especially gave me a strong understanding of the ethical and responsible considerations of AI principles.

To show my motivation for this role, I have developed a small MVP of a solution that would provide value to the Tony Blair Institute: OpenFOI. This is a platform which automatically responds to FOI requests and provides novel functionality for easy redaction of sensitive data.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. This is a role I am extremely excited to apply for and am happy to answer further question or details you may need.

Sincerely,

MAC WALKER