# MARK W. FIRTH

#### **CANDIDATE SUMMARY**

hello@mark.wf

+44 (0) 7482 315084

Intellectually curious, highly organised, competent and driven creative problem-solver with extensive experience in SME business operations and strategy. Has worked closely with entrepreneurs, startups, coworking spaces and startup accelerators. Expert at identifying operational inefficiencies, breaking down complex issues into easily implementable solutions and improving user experience and client outcomes. Strong strategic and systems thinker with the ability to take abstract ideas and turn them into actionable items and solve problems at scale. Excellent manager of people with experience working in global teams and across multiple functions with a resourceful and outcome-focused approach and the ability to manage and deliver on numerous simultaneous projects. Impressive educational background with a science degree from the University of Oxford and highly selective (6% acc. rate) MBA (pending). Fast learner with a passion for technological and creative pursuits, motivated by challenges and opportunities to develop professionally.

#### **CROSS-FUNCTIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT SKILL SUMMARY**

- Project Management

Stakeholder Management

- Workspace Management
- Events Management
- Global Staff Management

- Management Accounting
- Contracts and Agreements

**Product Management** 

Company Administration

#### **EXPERIENCE**



### **Startup Consultant**

mark.wf

Feb 2018 - present

Remote

- Successfully acquired 4 clients by understanding their problems, pitching solutions and negotiating contracts
- Expanded into multiple verticals by quickly learning and adapting to customer needs
- Increased Instagram following from 300 to 3.4k (over 1000% increase)
   by expanding knowledge in photography and digital marketing and applying various growth strategies



# **Director of Operations** (Contract)

Invisible Technologies

May 2018 - Aug 2018

Remote

- Successfully managed a global team of 50 people (5 direct reports) across numerous time zones by employing strong management skill
- Increased operational efficiency from 40% to 70% and client billable time to 1400+ hours of direct labour a month by introducing and promoting new revenue streams and understanding key problem areas and improving load balancing across teams
- Improved client experience as measured by qualitative feedback by supervising quality and providing constructive feedback to operators



# **Chief Operating Officer**

**DWYL** 

Jan 2017 - Dec 2017

London, United Kingdom

- Significantly strengthened brand position with minimal cost (£250) by enforcing trade mark rights to acquire highly valuable 4-letter .com and .co.uk domains as well as social media marketing handles
- Improved efficiency of financial administration by 300% by creating and implementing an automated contractor invoicing system
- Delighted clients and successfully managed numerous projects by employing strong communication and project management skills



#### **Founding Partner**

**Hack Partners** 

Jul 2016 - Jan 2017

London, United Kingdom

- Promoted to partner status after 3 months due to competence, diligence, zealousness and significant contributions to the business
- Contributed to pivoting the business model in a new direction by evaluating customer feedback and working closely with the founders
- Bolstered the closure of several major partnership deals collectively worth over £100,000 by communicating and working with senior stakeholders across the industry



### **Head of Operations**

#### Hack Partners

Apr 2016 - Jan 2017

London, United Kingdom

- Managed an accelerator programme featuring 11 technology startups and scale-ups and organised a 300-person conference and 120-person hackathon featuring senior stakeholders from across the industry by employing strong project management skill
- Successfully acquired a Tier 2 license and joined a Tier 5 intern scheme allowing the sponsorship of 2 international candidates without professional legal advice by thoroughly researching guidance and executing the process with detail
- Managed the creation of a legal procurement framework for startup-TOC software and hardware trials by assessing the contract landscape and working closely with a law firm



#### **Operations Manager**

# **Entrepreneur First**

Sep 2015 - Mar 2016

London, United Kingdom

- Diligently managed investment operations for 33 startups on the programme by using strong organisational skills
- Successfully managed over 30 visa applications including Tier 1
   Entrepreneur and Tier 1 Exceptional Talent by utilising strong project management skills and detail-oriented nature
- Organised and ran several high-profile events including a 300-person Demo Day attended by top investors by using strong organisation and event management skills



# Operations Manager & Academic Mentor

University of Oxford -Widening Access Summer School Programme

Jul 2012 - Aug 2015

Oxford, United Kingdom

- Managed college sites with teams of 4 staff and 50 residential students by using strong management skills
- Successfully resolved a number of sensitive incidents requiring pastoral care by using empathetic communication and knowledge of child safeguarding
- Increased competitive applications from state school students to the university by encouragement, mentoring students about the university's application processes and the academic content of the courses



## **Operations Intern**

#### Medopad

Sep 2014 - Oct 2014

London, United Kingdom

- Acquired valuable insight into the challenges that startups face in the digital health sector
- Gained exposure to multiple areas of the business and as a result improved generalist skill set and problem-solving skills
- Created an internal customer support interface by working closely with developers and utilising project management skills



# Medical Sciences Division Representative

Oxford University Student Union

Oct 2013 - Jun 2014

Oxford, United Kingdom

- Elected to represent the views of over 1600 students by running a successful voting campaign
- Advised the Division on key issues including building projects, student numbers and teaching
- Improved student experience by surveying students, campaigning for lecture recordings and successfully persuading IT Services to begin trials



#### Founder & President

Oxford University Dodgeball Club

Mar 2013 - May 2014

Oxford, United Kingdom

- Successfully convinced the Director of Oxford Sport to ratify the new club and provide facilities
- Navigated administration by arranging constitution, code of conduct, risk assessment, national affiliation, public liability insurance and a qualified coach
- Created a marketing pipeline mailing list, convinced over 550 people to sign-up and converted 42 to paying members in less than 1 year



#### Founder & President

Oxford University Society of Biomedical Sciences

Jan 2013 - Mar 2014

Oxford, United Kingdom

- Founded an academic society and events business with over 100 paying members
- Successfully raised £3000 of corporate and university seed funding by employing growth strategies and negotiation skills
- Organised an academic debate attended by over 400 and amassing over 15,000 views online by using strong project management skills

# **EDUCATION**



# Smartly School of Business

Master of Business Administration - MBA

Feb 2018 - present

Remote

Elite online MBA for high-potential candidates around the world, extremely selective (6% acc. rate). Rigorous curriculum includes accounting and marketing projects and covers:

Selected from over 200,000 people to be one of 10,000 to receive a Google

developer Udacity challenge scholarship. Further selected from pool of 10,000

Highly selective 8-week web development course covering a variety of

challenge scholars to be 1 of 1000 recipients. Curriculum includes:

- Business Foundations
- Markets & Economies
- Data & Decisions
- Leading Organisations
- Marketing & Pricing
- Finance & Accounting
- Supply Chain & Operations
- Strategy & Innovation



# Udacity Google Web Scholarship Programme

Mobile Web Specialist Nanodegree Scholar

Feb 2018 - present

London, United Kingdom

- Offline First
- Service Workers
- IndexedDB + caching
- ES2015 Syntax
- Polyfills
- Destructuring
- Iteration
- Arrow Functions

- JavaScript Classes
- Symbols
- Sets
- Maps
- Promises
- Proxies
- Generators
- Transpiling



## **Founders & Coders**

Full Stack JavaScript Web Development

Jan 2015 - Mar 2015

London, United Kingdom

- HTML
- CSS

technologies:

- JavaScript
- Git + GitHub
- Jekyll
- Markdown

- Guardian API
- Twitter API
- Instagram API
- Node
- Hapi
- D3



# University of Oxford St Edmund Hall

BA (Hons) Cell and Systems Biology

Oct 2011 - Jun 2015

Oxford, United Kingdom

Major: Cardiovascular, Renal and Respiratory Biology

Minor: Cellular Physiology and Pharmacology

**Research Project:** Varying enzymatic digestion to improve pancreatic islet isolation yield and clinical outcomes for type-1 diabetes

### **Extracurricular Courses:**

- May 2014 Lean Launch Programme, Oxford Launchpad
- Feb 2014 Startup Immersion, The Shed
- Jan 2014 Building a Business, Saïd Business School
- May 2013 Innovation Workshops + Mentoring, The Shed
- Sep 2012 Bridge to Business, St Edmund Hall