

About Me - {Michael McCallum}

1. In 4 sentences, introduce yourself in a short summary bio.

I little about myself: I was born in Mexico City, Mexico and come from a mixed family background, Mexican and British. Growing up, I lived in many different cities across the world because of my father's job, but more details on that later. I consider myself a passionate, virtuous, inquisitive, and sedulous guy who also looks at some parts of life with humor and optimism.

2. What hobbies do you have? What lights your fire?

My hobbies consist of many outdoor activities such as hiking, snowboarding, camping, playing soccer, and tennis. I also listen to uplifting music, enjoy dancing and food, go out with friends, and cheer on Manchester United whenever they play.

What lights my fire is movies and video games. I am fascinated by the stories both display and how they deliver them to the public. I am very passionate about cinema, hence why I studied video production, and I am intrigued by how amazing video games perform nowadays.

3. What is your favourite quote? And why?

We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us. - Unknown.

This quote reminds me there is so much more out there than your ordinary lifestyle routine. People tend to go on vacation to escape this routine, or to take a break from issues that cause stress. When in reality I believe people should get out of the known and into the unknown to experience other realities. Because that is the only thing life can offer us: a life of experiences.

4. Where have you lived? Where would you like to live and why?

Like I mentioned before I was born in Mexico City, but I actually never lived there. These are the cities where I have lived up until now:

- Villahermosa, Mexico
- Soldotna, Alaska, USA
- Bogotá, Colombia
- Poza Rica, Mexico
- Houston, USA
- Ciudad Ojeda, Venezuela
- Duri, Indonesia
- Culiacan, Mexico
- Halifax, Canada
- Toronto, Canada
- Oklahoma City, USA
- Los Angeles, USA
- Sydney, Australia

No, I am not lying. Every two years or so I would have to move cities with my family because my dad worked for an oil company, so every two years they would move him to a new location.

If I had to choose where to live it would be between Mexico, USA, Canada and now Australia.

5. What is it that you love about tech?

I believe it is the closest thing we have to the unreal. It is a tool that can accomplish things we humans aren't capable of doing, but with the help from machines and technologies, we can achieve them. Imagine that in a time not too far away we will be able to send humans to Mars!

6. Why have you decided to become a developer?

I decided to become a developer because it makes sense that this is a field where opportunities will always be available. There will be a great demand for developers as companies continue to evolve and adapt to a technologically driven society. Technology itself grows at a rapid pace so why not take part in this innovation?

7. What are you enjoying about the Fast Track programme?

The aspect I am enjoying the most from this programme is the learning of a new language. In this case computer languages. I am also enjoying the friendships I am forming with my classmates. I was very surprised to see how everyone in the class is so helpful with one another as well as passionate to learn and overcome the challenges that are given to us. Going to programming meetups is very enjoyable as well. The fact that the community is so driven to help other devs in the industry is fantastic!

8. What gives you satisfaction in your work? Or what do you think will?

The greatest satisfaction I get from working is when I feel I did my part in the project and getting recognized for it. Now, I am not saying I want to take the main spotlight, but that each team member is well praised for doing their part. I like the thought of fulfillment within a team that created something everyone is proud of.

9. What kind of work environment do you feel you thrive in?

An environment where there is respect, honesty, and is somewhat lenient with its employees in certain situations. Yes, I agree there have to be regulations in the workplace and when productive hours are in place, I would expect everyone to try and do the best they can. However, I would not want to work in an environment where you live to work and have no time to yourself or your loved ones. I would thrive in an office where the work goals are clear and where most people got along and could go grab a drink on Fridays without being uncomfortable around each other.

10. What is your ultimate dream once you graduate? (Say more than “just to get a job”)

My ultimate dream is to find stability. I have lived a life where change is constant so I am ready to settle down somewhere and enjoy what is around me. I want to find stability in my finances, in my relationships, and in my work. Another thing I dream of is to ascend to a position within a company that fulfills me. This would be a position where I manage a team of people and make great things happen. Ultimately, this company is helping to improve other people's lives.

11. What value do you believe you would add to a team?

The values I bring to a team are energy, optimism, and creative ideas. I also adapt very quickly to the demands and pace of work. When I work in a team I put more effort into doing things because I hate the feeling of disappointing others. I think I rather disappoint myself in solo projects. So when I know people are depending on me, I use that pressure to get things done and in the right way.

12. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I see myself enjoying every morning when heading to work since I work in a company where I am appreciated and am surrounded by inspiring people whom I look up to and want to follow in their footsteps so that someday I can inspire others around me. Hopefully by that time I have mastered some skills in programming and I am making my way to a senior developer role.