

Dear sir or madam,

My name is Mircea Sorin-Sebastian and I am currently in my final year in a Computer Science BS programme at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

If I were to analyze my whole life I realise that since I was a little kid, computers were my whole world. Even though, for the first 15 years of my life they just represented action games and movies, it all led to where I am today. By being so attracted to these machines, I was able to learn the alphabet and to be typing my first words, but nothing compares to a friendship that was made by playing a childish only game, a friendship that led to countless hours of conversations on messenger services in which I was being taught how to write my first lines of code by another kid which was 1 year older than me and 300 kilometers away. In that moment I knew why I was attracted to computers, because they allowed me to create.

Through my friendship, I was preparing for the Computer Science Olympiads, at that time I was studying at National College Dr. Ioan Mesota Mathematics and Computer Science, where because I have chose the program in which I studied English intensively, there was only one hour of Computer Science class per week, it was not enough to be preparing for the Olympiads but I was not giving up as I was learning everything with my friend. At the local stage of the computer olympiads I got an almost perfect score (my self confidence was boosted extraordinarily), but I completely failed the next stage, I was crushed. In the moment, I felt that I didn't want to code anymore, but after a few weeks of thinking and analyzing why it happened like this, I was back, more motivated than ever and starting with the next year I was able to qualify at the national stage of the olympics.

Myself, as probably a lot of people, I have the tendency to believe that my reasoning must be right, but through coding, there have been countless times in which I wrote my algorithm, I ran it, I was expecting it to do the right job but something completely different happend. And that made me wonder why, because the computer is only supposed to execute my exactly list of instructions. Thorough this process I am able to improve myself everyday, on the grounds that you cannot get any better if you do not make mistakes, and for me, the computer is the perfect tool to make those mistakes.

I love helping people and making an impact in the world, also I have always believed that as a doctor can help only a limited number of patients per day, as a programmer I can help much more people in a days period due to the fact that time and physical constraints are simply not there anymore.

As I am already as sure as I can be about the fact that Computer Science is going to be a part of me for the rest of my life, I have spend the last few years in trying to discover which path within this domain I am going to take. By summing up all my past experiences I believe that personal projects have played one of the most important role in this decision, being able to help people, to turn my ideas into reality and to work towards projects is what makes me tick.

One of the first projects on which I have worked on in high school is an online educational web platform that will allow other students to make their first steps towards becoming a programmer, it was basically a website similar with what I have been using until that point but reshaped in my view.

Moving on a few years, at the university I was using a pair of augmented reality HoloLens glasses to try an alternative way of teaching others how to play piano by just drawing different symbols on the piano keys that need to be pressed next.

I was always interested in using new technologies and in a more formal manner, by interning at Siemens in Cluj-Napoca I was able to extend an application with a progressive web part that had full offline support and synchronization. At Robert-Bosch, one year later, in the same city, to study artificial networks and to make experiments with convolutional and recurrent neural networks. During my time as an intern at Bloomberg, London, in the storage team, I had a unique opportunity to architect an alternative architecture with scalability in mind for their storage systems, it consisted in dockerizing their services and deploying them with kubernetes.

During the last few years I have also used every occasion to spread my passion, I have participated to talks at national events like Cluj IT Days or in high schools, have been a teacher at "LearnHouse" and been into the scientific committees (national contest Grigore Moisil) or organised algorithmic contests (at city level in my hometown, Brasov, Romania).

Having said all these, it is in my desire to meet and work with people that are at least as passionate for what they are doing as me.

Yours faithfully,
Mircea Sorin-Sebastian