

Owain West

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Summary

A sharp analytical mind and strong communicator, Owain West is an ideal candidate for technically, intellectually, and interpersonally demanding roles. He excels at working under pressure and has a proven history of and drive towards adding value both as a team member and individual.

Education

University of Waterloo (UW)

MMATH IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Waterloo, Canada

Sept. 2019 - Dec. 2020

University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)

BA, MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Philadelphia, USA

MAJORS IN: LOGIC, INFORMATION, AND COMPUTATION; COMPUTER SCIENCE; PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE

Sept. 2015 - May 2019

Experience

University of Waterloo

TEACHING ASSISTANT, CS 330 (MANAGEMENT INFO. SYSTEMS)

Waterloo, Canada

CS 330: Jan-Aug 2020, Jan 2021 - Present

- Responsible for grading assignments and exams, communicating feedback effectively to students, and giving input for course development.

Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Toronto Innovation Lab

Toronto, Canada

SOFTWARE ENGINEER, SUMMER

May - Aug. 2019

- Continued development of conversational applications for Alexa and Google Home, including production versions of previously instigated PoCs.
- Developed pipeline for automated evaluation of semantic quality of text summarizations created within natural-language dialog systems.
- Investigated capabilities of on-device and open-source conversational platforms, such as Rasa and Mycroft, and helped organize a 100+ person internal hackathon to test those technologies.

University of Pennsylvania

HEAD TEACHING ASSISTANT, LGIC 010 (INTRO FORMAL LOGIC)

Philadelphia, USA

Jan 2016 - May 2019

- Coauthored an introductory **textbook** for use in the class.
- Taught weekly recitation and office hour sessions. Managed other teaching assistants and helped develop curriculum and assignments.

UPenn Student Federal Credit Union

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER, INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Sept 2016 - May 2018

- Enacted regular audits to uphold a high standard of business and to comply with Federal banking regulations. Oversaw and regulated other core committees.
- Maintained and modernized the SFCU's website and digital presence, ensuring the security of sensitive banking information.

RBC, Toronto Innovation Lab

Toronto, Canada

SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN

May-Aug. 2017, May-Aug. 2018

- 2018: Lead design and development of multiple highly-conversational application PoCs. Interviewed, onboarded external software firms to those projects. Trained copious deep learning NLP functionality for use in conversational and data-insight applications, including text classification models, topic models, document/word embeddings, and custom named-entity-recognition models. Developed a machine-vision based table parser which outperforms standards (eg Tabula, FineReader). Provisional patent was received for resulting work.
- 2017: Designed and built a chatbot to automate the developer onboarding process. Spearheaded internal research and development of experimental Alexa/Google Home products. Designed and developed an internal vehicle-recommendation microservice and various internal tooling.

Bridge: Freshman Mental Wellness

Philadelphia, USA

FOUNDER, CO-PRESIDENT

Sept 2015 - May 2017

- Founded and developed Bridge, which was a student organization at UPenn that focused on peer support for freshmen.
- Organized events and support of various kinds for students in the wider UPenn community.

UPenn Aerospace Club

Philadelphia, USA

BALLOON SOFTWARE AND AVIONICS TEAM, OPERATIONS TEAM

Sep 2015 - May 2016

- Aided the design and program of experimental balloons sent into near space.
- Liaised with industry sponsors in order to obtain funding as well as host speaker and recruiting events.

Skills

PERSONAL

- Strong: Presentation ability • Communication • Adaptability • Drive to succeed • Analytical Reasoning • Empathy • Leadership • Teamwork • Problem-solving • Independent research • Quantitative thinking

PROGRAMMING

- Strong in: Julia • JavaScript • Python • Java • OCaml • SQL • K • TLA+
- Familiar with: Go • Elm • Kotlin • Ruby • Mathematica • C • Rust • Emacs Lisp • HTML • CSS

TECHNOLOGY

- Bioinformatics/proteomics techniques • AWS • GCP • IBM Cloud • Jenkins • Node • Dialogflow • Git • Unix tooling • Flask • SciPy • Numpy • Flux (Julia) • Alexa SDK • Elasticsearch • Tensorflow • Vim • Emacs • React • MongoDB • Postgress • Tailwind CSS

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in English • Conversational in French and Italian