Robbie Kirkbride

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I am a Software Developer and recent graduate of Makers Academy, with 5 years previous experience working as a civil engineering consultant in London. Last year I decided to take on a new challenge, and with a fascination in tech and a transferable skillset I decided to change career. In February 2023 I completed the 16 week software development bootcamp at Makers Academy and turned this goal into a reality. If you'd like to know more about this journey please read my [blog](#).

I am an ambitious and gregarious individual looking to bring my technical strengths and personable character to a junior developer role, as well as the leadership skills I forged in my previous roles. In addition to the technologies listed below, I am experienced in working practices such as OOP, TDD, Agile and Version Control.

Tech: JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, Express.js, React, Ruby, Sinatra, HTML, CSS, Tailwind, Jest, Cypress, RSpec, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Git, GitHub, Trello

PROJECTS

- [Ecoliday](#) - *MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js, JWT, Tailwind, Jest, Cypress*
  - An eco-conscious travel planner created during my two week Makers final project in a five person Agile team. It was built in four 2-day sprints, each time incrementally improving the MVP to develop a consistently useable product.
  - Used three APIs, with a total of eight calls made per search, and a test-driven approach with over 90% coverage.
  - My responsibilities included to set up the carbon emissions API for the different transport types, add the ability for users to sign up and the ability for users to make and save searches.
- [Frontleft](#) - *TypeScript, MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js, JWT, CSS, Jest*
  - A festival planner app created solo since graduating Makers Academy, written with TypeScript after I challenged myself to learn the superset. The app took under a week to create, including time learning about TypeScript.
  - Implemented JWT authentication and password encryption to ensure the app was secure.

Please see my [GitHub](#) for additional projects.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COWI UK - Engineering consultant - *January 2018 to October 2022*
- Supported the design of multiple and concurrent projects across the UK and abroad. During design of the [Mumbai Trans Harbour Link](#) I created Finite Element Analysis (FEA) models for the team and led the fatigue analysis.
- When designing the replacement of [Bilsdale Mast](#) I worked on a two person team under intense time pressure, yet delivered a design with approximately a third less CO2e than the original.
- Project manager of a long-standing Client with responsibility to supervise a team, lead client communication and ensure adherence of quality assurance processes.
- Used my leadership and guidance to support graduates undertaking design calculations and writing reports.
- Founding member of the "Early Careers Network" (ECN); an internal network spanning all UK offices that created a dedicated resource to facilitate Chartership progression in the company and organised social and technical events.
- This culminated in a 2 night Conference in the Peak District with approximately 70 guests from 7 different offices, for which I used my network to organise the speakers.

COWI UK - Structural Engineering Intern - *Summer 2015 & 2016*
- Undertook design calculations for several complex bridges, including the proposed [Garden Bridge](#).
- Responsible for the improvement of existing FEA models, refining them to increase accuracy and reduce run times.

EDUCATION

Makers Academy - Coding Bootcamp - *October 2022 to February 2023*
- Learned to write code in Ruby and JavaScript, but primarily learned to be a 'language-agnostic' developer through strong self-directed study skills. This has been proven by rapidly learning TypeScript since the course finished.
- Signed up to the mentor scheme and had regular catch ups with my mentee to offer them guidance and ease anxieties, a supervisory trait which I carried forward from my previous work experience.
- Used analytical thinking and a systematic approach to break problems down into manageable tasks, both in planning and production, which helped me establish a watertight TDD process and debugging techniques.
- My ability to explain problems methodically and concisely, developed in engineering, was regularly exercised in code reviews and when pairing. For example, when explaining to a peer how middleware could be used to check for the presence of a JSON web token and, if so, handle requests from the frontend in a certain way.

University of Bristol - MEng (Hons.) Civil Engineering, First Class - *2013 to 2017*

INTERESTS

- I love experiencing other cultures from around the World. A highlight of my travels to date was a 5 day unaided trek (reaching 4,750m altitude) in the Peruvian Andes, which emphasises my willingness to be challenged.
- I love playing football and having a general run around. I regularly compete in a 5 aside football team and have completed two half marathons, with a third planned for April 2nd.
- I am a lover of natural history. I dare you to read [The Golden Mole](#) and not feel awe and concern in equal measure.