John Smith
707 Pelton Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(123) 456-7890

April 19, 2019

Hiring Manager
Thermo Fisher Scientific
5823 Newton Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Hiring Manager,

I'm a senior undergraduate student at the University of California, Santa Cruz and am planning to graduate in June of this year with a B.S. in Computer Science. I'm seeking to begin my career in my hometown of San Diego and your job opening for a Data Engineer & Business Intelligence role piqued my interest as it looks like a unique blend of data science, computer science, and business partnership–three areas that map perfectly to my interests & skillset.

I believe I would be a great fit for this opening on your team for three reasons:

1. **Strong background in programming & databases** — I have a well-rounded programming background in a number of languages and platforms, including SQL, Python, and React Native, and I learn new languages quickly. I also have a strong interest and skillset in complex database systems, including distributed systems, thanks to my coursework and projects at UCSC. Of all my classes, I've most enjoyed working with databases as they present the interesting challenge of creating order and meaning from chaos.

2. **Scrum & tech writing experience** — I have extensive experience creating clear, concise documentation for apps and projects–as a Research Assistant, I created a detailed document describing how to set up a new prototype ARM server for an enterprise data center. I also enjoy organizing a team towards a common goal, which I did as Scrum Master for a mobile app called Civic Duty. As part of this team, I was responsible for presenting our demos to leadership and working with them to evaluate what features to add to the app, then coordinating with our front-end and back-end developers to deliver those features according to schedule.

3. **My communication & leadership skills** — In my classes, my favorite roles have been team leader and Scrum Master. I've found that I have a unique ability in being able to describe complex technical concepts in easy-to-understand terms to a non-technical audience. I also love collaborating as part of cross-functional teams–my experience as a Research Assistant working with Stanford students & faculty as well as employees at a tech hardware company was incredibly fulfilling as we worked together towards a common goal.

I see Thermo Fisher Scientific as a place where I hope to make significant contributions and establish a long-term career. I believe my accomplishments at UCSC and passion for data analytics will help me to hit the ground running and deliver results quickly. I would love to meet with you to discuss how I can help Thermo Fisher tackle business issues and continue to drive insights and innovation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Smith

John Smith

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Objective

Well-rounded and team-oriented Computer Science graduate seeking a software engineer or a database administrator role in the biotech or tech industries within the San Diego area.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — September 2017 - June 2019
University of California, Santa Cruz
3.34 GPA

Associate of Science in Mathematics — August 2015 - May 2017
Associate of Arts in Communication
San Diego City College
3.4 GPA

Experience

Undergraduate Research Assistant — Summer 2018
Department of Computer Engineering; Advisor: Prof. Heiner Litz
University of California, Santa Cruz

- Collaborated closely with Prof. Litz and a fellow student to significantly improve the remote access speed to NVMe Flash in an enterprise data center and reduce the data center's power consumption.
- Set up and maintained a headless Ubuntu server, using custom kernels on a new prototype ARMv8-A system.
- Worked with a research team at Stanford University and a large computer hardware company in the Silicon Valley to set up the server; handled and relayed protected intellectual property securely.
- Created detailed documentation describing server set-up, maintenance, troubleshooting, and next steps for continuing the research and adding more functionality to the server.

Selected Project

Civic Duty — Summer 2018
University of California, Santa Cruz

- Worked as part of a 5-person team to design and develop a voter information mobile app on iOS and Android operating systems in 5 weeks using React Native, Python, and Adobe XD.
- Acted as Scrum Master and facilitated daily scrums, planning poker sessions, product demos, sprint retrospectives, and burndown charts. Presented demos and new product features to faculty and staff.

Skills

Java · Python · C · C++ · Haskell · SQL · Matlab · React Native · JavaScript · HTML · CSS · LaTeX · Agile · Scrum · Unix · Git

Coursework

Distributed Systems · Operating Systems · Database Systems · Algorithm Analysis · Computer Architecture · Software Engineering · Computational Methods · Comparative Programming Languages · Abstract Data Types · Web Applications · Technical Writing · Probability Theory · Intermediate German

Extracurricular

Member of the Association for Computing Machinery
Team leader and administrator of the 2018 UCSC Dota 2 esports team

Note: This résumé used a template from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a starting guideline.

Statement of Purpose for a MS in Computer Science at the University of California, Santa Cruz

John Smith

Ever since I was young, when other kids were dreaming of being astronauts and sports stars, I knew that I wanted to work with computers. I grew up in the 90's, when computers were just starting to take off in the mainstream, and I had an absolute fascination and wonder for just how quickly things moved in the world of computing – it seemed like every year, bigger and better technology was being released. I was fortunate enough to have my uncle, the only computer hobbyist in my family at the time, recognize my shared interest in computing. He struck a deal with me: he would give me some old parts laying around his office for me to build a computer, but only on the condition that I had to build it myself, with as little guidance from him as possible. How could I refuse? All these years later, as an adult, that feeling and sense of amazement with computers is still just the same. I'm fortunate to be in the industry that I love.

The University of California, Santa Cruz was one of my dream schools when I was applying for undergraduate programs for Computer Science, and it remains one of my dream schools as I'm applying for Master's programs. The quality of education that I received as an undergraduate, from some of the top researchers in the world, is an experience that could be replicated at very few other schools. Some of the most impactful courses for me were Database Systems with Shel Finkelstein, where I learned that I loved SQL and working with databases, and Algorithm Analysis with Dimitris Achlioptas, which exponentially strengthened my logical thinking and programming ability. I was fortunate enough to even take part in a research lab with Heiner Litz, which was very exciting for me and further introduced me to the unique blend of industry and academia that UC Santa Cruz provides.

I would like to join UC Santa Cruz's Data Center Computing or Databases program. While I'm interested in nearly all aspects of computer science, those two programs pique my interest the most, and are most closely related to what I've specialized in throughout my education thus far. I want to further strengthen my involvement in and understanding of the important world of databases as we move increasingly towards a world of cloud computing.

Looking towards the future and my long-term goals, I plan to enter industry after earning my Master's degree. Although I greatly enjoy academia, I want to experience working for a mid-size or large tech company before deciding if I want to pursue a PhD. Whether I'm in industry or academia, I am certain that I want to continue the pursuit of knowledge in the beautiful, complex field of computer science.