Rowland Williams

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I am a 1st class UCL masters graduate looking to move into data journalism. I have worked in a range of data focused roles and am passionate about its creative use to produce engaging stories on societal issues. I have programming skills in R, Python, JavaScript, and HTML/ CSS and wish to build upon this solid foundation, combining computational thinking with creativity.

Relevant Experience

Analyst | APEM Ltd (Environmental Consultancy), Manchester, UK | May – September 2019
- Used R and Excel to analyse data from aerial wildlife surveys implemented to guide the sustainable placement of offshore wind farms.
- Worked within a data-focused team to perform analyses to meet high-pressured client deadlines.

Supply-chain Research Intern | Global Canopy, Oxford, UK | October 2017 – April 2018
- Analysed data for the Transparency for Sustainable Economies (Trase) platform using R and GIS.
- Designed R pipelines for data cleaning, processing and integration.
- Worked from pre-determined briefs to create data-driven stories and visualizations using R for policy briefs, blogs and presentations.

Research Assistant | University College London & States of Jersey | June 2017 – September 2017
- Performed statistical modelling of the impacts of novel artificial lighting technologies on bat ecology on the island of Jersey using R.
- Liaised with relevant stakeholders to collate data sources.
- Prepared my results for publication as lead author.

Freelance Illustrator and Photographer | May 2012 – Present
- Regular commissions for clients including Hervé Surfboards, UCL Surf Club and Peas and Glove.
- Documentary, Travel and Portrait photography.
- Worked effectively to client briefs to meet deadlines.

Other Experience

Ski Technician | Niseko Sports, Hokkaido, Japan | November 2019 – April 2020
- Gained experience working overseas in a high-pressure environment.
- Studied data science and web-development in my spare time (Udemy Python for Data Science Bootcamp and freeCodeCamp JavaScript Data Structures and Algorithms certification).
- Focused on photographic and creative projects.

Relevant Projects

MATOPIBA: Brazil's new soy frontier:
- A visual blog from my time at UK NGO Global Canopy.
- Used data from Trase and the ggplot2 library in R to explore the recent expansion of soy production in the Matopiba region of Brazil and its associated environmental costs.

Machines for Nature:
- An article exploring the emerging role of machine learning in biodiversity science.
- Won a Global Studies scholarship from the American NGO Field Projects International to fund a tropical field-skills course in the Peruvian Amazon.

GetSurfForecast:
- Incorporated a web-app into a website that queries Magicseaweed API (a surf forecasting site) and downloads current forecast data for a given location, in this case two locations in Jersey, Channel Islands.
- Taught myself how to use API's to access data.

COVID-19 visualiser:
- Ongoing project visualizing data from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed visualization skills in the Python package Bokeh.

Skills
Programming/Data
- R:
    - Strong understanding of core analytics and visualization packages (e.g. tidyverse, ggplot2).
    - Data modelling using spdep, glmer packages.
- Python:
    - Analytics and visualization: pandas, numpy, seaborn, bokeh.
    - Working knowledge of Machine learning using tensorflow/keras.
    - Python for Data Science and Machine Learning Bootcamp on Udemy.
- Web-development:
    - HTML, CSS3
    - JavaScript: data structures and algorithms, APIs, React.js.

Statistics
- Experienced with basic statistics, linear modelling and model selection methods (p-value, AIC and information theoretic model averaging).

Creative
- Production of communications materials for a wide range of audiences.
- Design using Adobe Creative Suite and Procreate.
- Photography (Documentary, Travel) and Illustration.

Education
MSci Biological Sciences | University College London (UCL) | 1st Class Honours | 2013 – 2017
- Statistical Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.
- 3rd Year spent at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada.
- Academic Awards:
    - UCL Faculty of Life Sciences – The Dean's List Nominee (2014).
    - UCL Provost's Scholarship for Academic Excellence (2013, £1000).

A-levels | Victoria College, Jersey | 2011 – 2013
- Biology (A*), Chemistry (A*), Maths (A*)
- AS: French (A), Photography (B)