Simon Staal

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EDUCATION

09/2019 – 06/2023 **MEng Computer Engineering (EIE)** London, UK
Imperial College London

- Graduated valedictorian with First Class Honours, obtaining the highest average across all streams in the Electrical Engineering department (85.21% overall).
- Obtained the 2023 Siemens Memorial Medal and 2021 Head of Department Prize for top academic performance, and on the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Dean's List for academic excellence.
- Awarded the Dennis Gabor prize for "outstanding contributions to student life, and professionalism in all their activities".
- Modules of interest: Computational Optimisation (91.20%), Hardware and Software Verification (89.00%), Advanced Computer Architecture (86%), Algorithms and Complexity (100%), Instruction Set Architecture and Compilers (86%), Programming for Engineers (94%)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

04/2022 – 09/2022 **Software Engineering Industrial Placement** Amsterdam, NL
Optiver

Primarily focused on 2 projects in the Option Execution and Risk Technology teams, one focused on scaling out Optibook, a simulated exchange used in training and recruitment, and the other on re-designing Optiver's instrument download pipeline. Gained exposure to working with financial markets and many of its associated challenges, and developed software engineering skills, participating in code reviews and deploying changes to production, as well as improving Python and C++ skills.

07/2021 – 09/2021 **Robotics Program Internship** London, UK
Amazon

Worked with Amazon's reliability maintenance engineering robotics program team on a UK/EU project to update processes associated with their robotics stations. Collaborated with teams spanning different business sectors, developing strong communication skills and expanding data gathering and analysis techniques.

11/2020 – 05/2023 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** London, UK
Imperial College London

Worked with the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to provide both one-on-one and group learning support various programming-focused modules. Responsibilities included providing qualitative feedback on code quality, delivering lectures on how to best use features of modern C++ (C++11 onwards) when working on a large software project, as well as directly assisting students with any issues they encountered.

SKILLS AND AWARDS

Technical Skills

Languages:

- C++(17/20) / Python (Advanced)
- Bash / SQL / F# / Kotlin / Node.js (Intermediate)

Other:

- Experienced with Linux development and Git
- Strong understanding of networks and profiling

Awards

- Siemens Memorial Medal & Book Prize (2023)
- Dennis Gabor Prize (2023)
- EIE 2nd Year Head of Department Prize (2021)
- Dean's List for Academic Excellence (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Australian Institute of Physics SA Bragg Certificate (2019)
- AMT Australian Mathematics Competition Distinction (2018)
- Charles Gillham Memorial Prize for Physics (2018)
- Da Costa Scholarship for Best Academic Performance (2017)

VOLUNTEERING

Departmental Representative

Imperial College Electronic and Information Engineering

10/2021 – 08/2023 | London, UK

- Represented my cohort as the 3rd Year Wellbeing Representative, and the entire course as the Academic Department Representative during my final year.
- Gathered data on student issues through surveys and one-on-one discussions, and co-ordinated with other representatives to raise these problems to the department.
- Planned and implemented various changes to the course structure, adjusting credit allocation and degree content to improve fairness of assessments and more accurately reflect technical ability.
- Overhauled the module feedback system for 3rd and 4th Year modules to provide future students better resources to select modules, and future representatives a more maintainable system.