

1. Exchange Summaries

You (Data Scientist):

I shared my three chosen roles: Data Scientist at Revolut, Junior Data Scientist at Frontier Economics, and Junior Data Scientist at Ravelin. I selected these because they suit recent graduates and offer strong learning environments. What appealed to me was the blend of analytical problem-solving and Python/SQL-based data work, but I found the deployment and cloud skills requirements challenging.

Peer (Software Developer):

My partner shared three roles: Junior Software Engineer at Google, Graduate Software Developer at Accenture, and Entry-Level Web Developer at IBM. They liked the opportunities to work on real-world applications, teamwork, and innovation. However, they found advanced frameworks (like React and Spring Boot) and testing tools challenging.

2. Compare Skills Gap Analyses

Common skills to develop:

- **Version control (Git/GitHub):** Both of us can strengthen this through collaborative GitHub projects or open-source contributions.
- **Communication and teamwork:** We plan to join more group coding or data projects at university to practice explaining technical work.

Unique strength (peer):

My partner's strong understanding of full-stack development and logical problem-solving will make them stand out to employers.

Unique strength (mine):

My analytical mindset and ability to handle data insights give me a strong foundation for data-driven roles.

3. Mutual Feedback

Feedback to each other:

- I advised my partner to expand their project portfolio on GitHub, showcasing real-world apps.
- They recommended I build a full end-to-end data science project, including model deployment, to demonstrate applied learning.

University connection:

We both agreed that university courses in algorithms, databases, and software design directly help develop these skills, while extracurricular coding clubs and hackathons could boost teamwork and project exposure.

4. Joint Reflection

Through our discussion, we discovered that both data science and software development share many foundational skills such as Python programming, problem-solving, and teamwork. However, while my focus is on data analysis, modelling, and insights, my partner's path emphasises software architecture and application design. We both recognised the importance of version control, communication, and practical experience. Comparing our skills gaps helped us realise that the best way to grow professionally is through hands-on projects, open-source collaboration, and continued self-learning. We also learned how transferable university modules like programming, databases, and software engineering are across both roles. This peer reflection has also helped realise that it wouldn't be too difficult to shift to software development if i changed my mind from data science as our skills are are foundationally similar in a way. Overall, this peer exchange helped us better understand how to position ourselves in the job market, support each other's development, and use university experiences to bridge our skill gaps and prepare for future careers in tech.