To whom it may concern,

I am writing to apply for the position of Portfolio Analyst (Finance) in Bristol which I have seen advertised and would be very interested in. I am a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Bath and I am seeking a data analysis role outside of academia.

I am motivated to pursue a career in data analysis because I want the opportunity to develop my data analysis and programming skills whilst solving real-world problems in a commercial setting. I am looking for an opportunity to move out of academia and into industry because I would like a role with a greater focus on data analysis, data science and programming which is where I have discovered my real interest lies. Data is an invaluable resource for businesses and the opportunity to facilitate its use in industry is hugely exciting.

The most fulfilling and interesting part of my academic career has been the analysis of large, messy datasets. It is particularly satisfying to analyse a dataset and present an insightful, concise graph that displays an identified trend, or to use data to make a prediction. Furthermore, as part of my PhD and in my current role, I have spent time writing and testing code and I have published Python packages. These are skills which I feel are complimentary to a career in data science. In addition, my research has begun to involve utilising machine learning to make predictions about the properties of battery materials. I have very much enjoyed this exposure to machine learning, and this is the direction I wish to take my career next.

I am a highly skilled Python programmer and have worked with the language on a daily basis for four years. During my PhD and in my current postdoctoral position, I have developed analysis software written in Python in order to process data that has been outputted from simulations. I have published open source software packages, taught Python and Fortran programming to undergraduate and postgraduate students and have been invited to speak at conferences about good practice for academics who code. In my spare time I enjoy playing around with analysis of real-life datasets and current affairs and have recently created analysis graphs of interesting COVID-19 related data. Finally, I am proficient with version control and have used git for the last four years.

This opportunity looks to be a great fit with my skills and I would be really interested to hear more about the company.

Kind regards and many thanks,

Dr. Adam Symington

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