Stephen Church

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MEng Computer Science

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I have recently graduated from an integrated Master's in Computer Science (MEng) at the University of Durham, obtaining a first class honours degree. I have a particular interest in how the technical aspects of computer science can be applied to make a real difference in the world. I take my curiosity, determination and dedication to further my own abilities by entering competitions (for example the BAE CyberSecurity Challenge, 2015, and the Unicode Challenge, 2018), and taking part in side-projects (namely the Amazon Alexa Student Promotion, 2017). Constantly searching for new ways to develop not only my knowledge base, but also my professional working skills, I have taken part in a research project with my university department and, most recently, an internship with Grant Thornton. I am now seeking work until September 2020.

I am mainly looking for jobs involving software development, web design, databases or project management, however I am open to any other that will enhance my existing skills or help me develop new ones.

Academic history

University of Durham (October 2015 – July 2019): MEng Computer Science.
Grade: First Class Honours

Grade history, fourth year: Contemporary Computer Science IV (81); Software Systems and Applications IV (80); Advanced Project (80)

Grade history, third year: Contemporary Computer Science III (85); Software Systems and Applications III (81); Advanced Computer Systems (72); Individual Project (71)

Grade history, second year: Programming Paradigms (96); Theory of Computation (92); Software Engineering (87); Group Project (81); Networks and Systems (81); Software Methodologies (75)

Grade history, first year: Computational Thinking (96); Introduction to Programming (93); Computer Systems (89); Mathematics for Computer Science (86); Algorithms and Data Structures (86); Introduction to Psychology I (81)

Lancaster Royal Grammar School (LRGS) (Sep 2008 – June 2015):
2 A*s, 1 A, 1 B in **A Level Exams** (June 2015) (Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Spanish respectively), 7 A*s and 4 As in **GCSE exams** (June 2013), 1 A in FSMQ (June 2013).
Extracurricular: GCSE Physics tutor (2014), Spanish exchange (2014).

Awards and Achievements

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Level 4 Computer Science (2019): Durham University
Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Levels 2 and 3 Computer Science (2018): Durham University
Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Level 2 Computer Science (2017): Durham University
Amazon Alexa Student Developer Diploma (2017): Awarded for creating a skill for the Amazon Echo devices.
Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Level 1 Computer Science (2016): Durham University
Norton Prize for Outstanding Academic Performance in First Year (2016): Durham University
British Physics Olympiad Round 1: Silver Award: (2014): LRGS
UK Senior Mathematical Challenge: Gold Award (2013): LRGS

Focused Professional Development

Demonstrator (October 2018 – July 2019):
- Helped demonstrate the practical coding sessions for the first year programming module.
- Topics include: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Node.js, Git, UNIX, Cloud

Grant Thornton Summer Internship (June 2018 – July 2018):
- Spent 6 weeks as part of the Technology Risk Services team within the Grant Thornton London office
- Used technical skills to deal with data and developed client-facing personal skills

BP Summer Research Internship (June 2016 – September 2016):
- Spent 10 weeks researching selfish routing within computer networks.
- Compiled an 8-page report on my findings.

Further Experience

Volunteer at Jungle Refugee Camp, Calais (September 2016):
- Worked in the warehouses for a week, sorting through donations and making up bags of items the refugees had asked for.
- Worked in the camp, helping to distribute the aid as efficiently as possible.
- Spent a day in the centre of the camp teaching English to the refugees.
- Post-experience, I took part in a sponsored walk to raise awareness for Durham for Refugees, and raise money for Help Refugees.

Volunteer tutor for Durham Student Community Action (November 2015 – June 2017):
- Tutored a GCSE student in maths, and any other subject she needed help with.
- Used and improved the valuable skills gained from previous tutoring during my time tutoring as an A-level student.

BAE Cyber Security Challenge: (November 2015)
- Gained a taste of work within the field of cyber security
- Worked in a team to solve interesting problems

Volunteer Customer Assistant at Cancer Research UK, Morecambe (June 2014 – October 2014):
- Duties included, but were not limited to: Stocking, preparing items for display, serving customers, and organising the shop floor.
- My communication skills and teamwork abilities improved greatly.

Employability Skills

Technical Abilities: I have a great ability to learn, as shown by the numerous programming languages I have experience with and the grades I have achieved so far. I also have the capability to self-teach, as shown by my Amazon Alexa Student Diploma and the various group and individual projects I have undertaken during my time at of university, which involved learning many new technologies (including Twig, SQL and Neural Networks).

Communication: Throughout my time at university, I have been involved in group presentations to students and lecturers, and have also taken part in one-on-one tutoring and most recently, demonstrating for a first year module, giving me the skills to tailor my communication style and level of expertise to suit the audience. Furthermore, as part of various modules, I have gained experience writing formal documents. All of these skills were shown and improved through my time at Grant Thornton.

Drive and enthusiasm: I am self-motivated, enthusiastic, and curious. I also show a genuine dedication to the development of learning, through various tutoring opportunities, as well as my third year individual project which aimed to help more young girls get involved in computer science.

Programming and ICT Skills

Programming Languages: Python (including OpenCV and Pytorch), JavaScript (including Node.js), TypeScript, C#, HTML, CSS, SQL, Java, PHP, Prolog, Haskell, C.

Other Software: Angular, ASP.Net, Node-RED, LaTex, JetBrains IDEs, Android Studio, Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop.

Other

Languages: English (Mother Tongue), Spanish (Basic Understanding of Written and Spoken Spanish).

Interests: Swimming, Photography, Writing

Clubs and Societies: Computer Science Society (October 2015 – July 2019); Durham Archery Club (October 2015 – October 2018); SCA One on One Tutoring (October 2015 – June 2017); Badminton (October 2016 – February 2017); Climbing Club (April 2017 – October 2018); Documentary Society (October 2017- July 2019); Harry Potter Society (October 2017 – July 2019).