

POSTGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

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Personal Statement Example: Computer Science

An open-day event at the Parkland Branch of LJA heightened my perception of the value and impact of computer technology on Slater Accounting Firm, LJA capitalised on digital accounts and a bespoke online system to finalise their auditing. This approach demonstrated higher efficiency and lower error rates than traditional paper-based processes. Having witnessed the growing trend of audit automation, my next internship at the Buckley Construction Bank allowed me to interact with AI Middle Office and gave me a first-hand opportunity to understand artificial intelligence's integration into the banking industry. Given AI Middle Office's facilitation of financial product innovation and cost reduction, I now recognise the need to deepen my understanding of mathematics, especially probability theory. This realisation piqued my interest in the connections between computer science and finance application development, inspiring me to design financial software which enhances staff and customer productivity. These experiences have combined to motivate my application for this MSc in Computer Science (Conversion).

Globalisation increasingly requires professionals across a range of industries to develop a basic understanding of the discipline of computer science, and I am increasingly aware of my need to build a portfolio of technical skills in this arena. For instance, analysing a large number of stocks is more likely to be undertaken in R or Python, and the more one knows about relevant software packages, the more successful one is likely to be in developing effective investment apps or bots. Ultimately, I am committed to using coding to improve efficiency and optimise my time, allowing me to undertake further profitable and creative endeavours.

My undergraduate studies have allowed me to acquire a wealth of calculus, statistics and data science knowledge, giving me a solid foundation for studying machine learning and algorithmic solutions. I have also accumulated a comprehensive understanding of the development and application of software engineering through the practice of quantitative analysis. In the *Information Systems for Accountants* module, I significantly improved my programming skills, progressing from writing a mini-game via PyGame to a stock crawler's

web version based on HTML, CSS and JavaScript before finally constructing a framework with Django. These accomplishments have encouraged my constant exploration of programming and software development and thoroughly prepared me for the challenges of graduate study. To update my understanding of the real-world application of computer science, I participated in a software development project focusing on intelligent analysis, evaluation and employee validation led by Professor Marks at the Western University of Mining and Technology. I created a knowledge base that recognised numerous work roles and responsibilities. As an independent learner, I gained an increased understanding of machine learning, algorithmic optimisation and evaluative methodologies during this process. Furthermore, processing significant volumes of data via Access and Excel throughout this project strengthened my database creation capabilities.

Benefiting from my programming and data processing experience, I gained industry experience in real estate valuation during my internship at the Maxim Real Estate Development Co. I carried out initial modelling using Excel, but adding an increasingly complex array of formulas made the process inefficient and cumbersome. To overcome this obstacle, I created a model in Python, which allowed me to complete the valuation by inputting code directly into the model, streamlining my process. I have cultivated my automation mindset by writing a script to deliver charts and tables to fixed positions when creating PowerPoint slides and automatically managing quarterly financial statements. These challenges improved my computing competence and prompted me to reflect on the advantages of utilising coding and programming in the financial industry. Importantly, I realised that expertise in computer science improves efficiency across an array of diverse disciplines, furthering my determination to study Computer Science at graduate level and develop my professional versatility and employability as a result.

I envision contributing to a revolutionary internet-enabled society in which each element is connected to a highly intelligent cloud. The enriched research outputs and top-rated teaching quality of Computer Science at Marshall University will help me achieve my personal and professional ambitions. I look forward to engaging in the *Introduction to Computer Science* course, which will provide me with interdisciplinary insights into computer science in business and facilitate my exploration of the future possibilities and challenges enabled by the development of technology in the broader economic context. With the business knowledge from my past studies, I will take a step further toward my career goals by combining business and computer development in this course. In addition, courses such as *Programming in C* and *Object-Oriented Programming with Java* will enable me to refine my programming techniques.

Gaining a full-scale software development skillset and a comprehensive understanding of computer applications relating to accounting and banking industries in this MSc programme is an ideal next step for me. My advanced knowledge of mathematics will facilitate my implementation of a standard set of algorithms and allow me to develop a high-performance application that combines my knowledge of business and computing in original and profitable ways. Ultimately, I aim to apply the knowledge gained from my graduate studies within the sphere of financial software innovation, improving efficiency and customer experience. I am confident that my experience and background will allow me to meet the challenges of Marshall's programme and maximise the potential of my master's studies. I look forward to playing a positive role as an engaged member of your faculty.

