

James Mottashed (Jamie)

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Personal Statement

High-achieving Computer Science undergraduate (Predicted First Class, **89% Year 1 Average**) and TargetJobs **Software Engineering Undergraduate of the Year 2026**. I combine deep analytical foundations (98% in Maths & Logic) with a proven track record of resilience and teamwork as a U18 Rugby National Cup Winner and 1st XV Captain. By merging technical proficiency (TypeScript, Java, C, AI integration) with strong interpersonal and communication skills developed as a Teaching Associate and robotics coach, I consistently drive projects to completion.

Education & Qualifications

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, B.SC. COMPUTER SCIENCE

09/2024-06/2027

- First class (predicted) (**89% Overall**)
- Modules: Object Oriented Programming (94%), Data Structures and Algorithms (90%), Mathematical and Logical Foundations of Computer Science (98%), Artificial Intelligence 1 (85%)
- Awards: TargetJobs **Software Engineering Undergraduate of the Year 2026**, UK Excellence Scholarship for academic achievement, Birmingham Award with Distinction

REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

09/2017-06/2024

- A-levels: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Further Maths (A*, A*, A*, A)
- GCSEs: 11 (10 at Grade 9, 1 at Grade 8), including Maths (9), Further Maths (9) and Computing (9)
- Awards: 2x **Gold** UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (2x Best in Year), **1st XV Rugby Captain**, Gold DofE

Technical Projects

CITYFIX EXCHANGE (GROUP PROJECT) | JAVA/SPRINGBOOT, ANGULAR, POSTGRESQL, DOCKER

- Led and empowered a **7-person** development team, driving the project to successful completion by managing agile work distribution, feature prioritization, and critical code reviews.
- Engineered a streamlined reporting workflow to solve a real-world local maintenance challenge.
- **Bridged the gap between technical execution and project management**, balancing personal code contributions with the responsibility of maintaining team momentum and ensuring high-quality technical standards.

EDGE-NATIVE AI LANGUAGE TUTOR (SOLO PROJECT) | TYPESCRIPT/REACT, CLOUDFLARE WORKERS AI, DURABLE OBJECTS

- Engineered a serverless Spanish tutoring agent using Workers and Cloudflare Durable Objects for stateful, long-running conversations and Spaced Repetition scheduling.
- Engineered a **CI/CD pipeline** using GitHub Actions to enforce **strict TypeScript type-checking** and linting standards prior to automated deployment to the Cloudflare edge.
- Overcame significant limitations in **LLM tool-calling** reliability by iteratively refining system prompts and implementing and navigating context and scheduling logic.
- Built a polished React/Vite frontend with real-time streaming (Vercel AI SDK) for minimal latency

SKYBUDDY (SOLO PROJECT) | TYPESCRIPT/REACT, EXPO SDK, SUPABASE, VARIOUS APIS

- Engineered a comprehensive mobile prototype designed to reduce travel anxiety, integrating the Google Maps API alongside flight data to provide users with dynamic "leave-now" times, gate statuses and integrated meal logistics.
- **Architected an AI-assisted development workflow**, defining technical specifications and delegating implementation tasks to Claude Code, demonstrating strong project management by reviewing, refining and merging code.
- Demonstrated technical resilience and adaptability by independently upskilling in mobile development (Expo SDK) and database architecture, successfully integrating Supabase to manage complex, relational data.

FIREWALL API (SOLO PROJECT) | C

- Built a thread-safe Firewall API, tackling a complex, real-world engineering challenge by implementing 'pthread' read-write locks and mutexes to ensure secure, concurrent read/write access to dynamic linked-list rule sets.
- Engineered rule parsing and packet filtering logic to evaluate IP and port ranges, exercising technical decision-making and precise, leak-free memory management protocols.
- Drove the project to a high standard of completion, authoring over 1,500 lines of test code across 120 rigorous test cases to guarantee system reliability.

Professional Experience

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSOCIATE – DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS | UNIVERSITY

01/2026-
04/2026

- Supported a cohort of over 400 students' learning by explaining key concepts in data structures, algorithms, and problem-solving techniques, reinforcing both theoretical and practical understanding.
- Guided lab sessions and monitored online channels, fostering strong technical communication skills and confidence in applying algorithms to realistic problems.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER AND AI TRAINER, DATA ANNOTATION | REMOTE

08/2025-
PRESENT

- Conducted Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) on coding models, debugging complex agent interactions with more than 100 turns and validating tool-use logic.
- Analysed, annotated, and validated data to train machine learning models, applying problem-solving and attention to detail while collaborating with cross-functional teams.

COACH AND CO-LEAD, CODE KIDS ROBOTICS LTD. | SURREY

07/2025-
09/2025

- Delivered coding and robotics sessions to students, simplifying technical concepts and adapting to diverse audiences, strengthening communication skills essential for collaborating across professional teams.
- Led extension sessions for excelling students, empowering them to tackle complex robotics challenges.

INCLUSIVITY SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN FOOTBALL SOCIETY | UNIVERSITY

06/2025-
05/2026

- Championed the committee drive to enhance team culture, strengthen communication and diversity, and promote a welcoming environment, boosting engagement and retention.
- Developed and maintained an Excel-based player attendance system, providing coaches with actionable data to improve squad management and inform team selection.

INCOMING SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN, SKYSCANNER | LONDON

06/2026-
09/2026

- Secured a highly competitive internship within the UK tech sector as part of the Undergraduate of the Year Awards programme.

Honours & Awards

- Named the TargetJobs **Software Engineering Undergraduate of the Year 2026**, from a highly competitive national pool.
- Completed the **Birmingham Award with Distinction**, demonstrating a proactive, self-driven commitment to developing the personal and professional attributes of an effective leader.
- Awarded **UK Excellence Scholarship** in Computer Science at the University of Birmingham, recognising outstanding academic performance and potential in the field.
- Named the University of Birmingham Lions' 2026 'Special Teams MVP' for performance in American Football.
- Elected 1st XV Rugby Captain and Senior Prefect at Reigate Grammar School, entrusted with mentoring junior students, leading a high-achieving team, and representing the school community.
- Earned the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a testament to long-term commitment, determination, and proficiency in planning, teamwork, and perseverance.
- Demonstrated resilience and drive to excel, recovering from serious injury to be a key starting player in the Dorking Rugby Colts' **U18 National Cup victory** in 2024.