

Joel Russell **BSc (Hons)**

Software Engineer



Personal Profile

A Computer Science graduate of 2020, I now work as a senior software engineer at a fast-growing hospitality industry solutions company. My previous work was a year-long project leading development in an online events startup. Before this, I worked freelance, developing a crucial track and trace app for a University. Besides Computer Science, I have a keen interest in the technology of live events and broadcast technology.

Experience

- 2022 – **Senior Software Engineer, prev Software Engineer** *Opsyte Online*
Developing and upgrading Opsyte’s hospitality staff and finance management systems. Organising the team for an ambitious new project, liaising with the client and delivering demos of the new software.
.NET Core / Blazor / Azure / Leadership
- 2021 – 2022 **Software Developer** *andeye Productions*
Working in an ambitious start-up on an online conferencing platform, managing the full-stack development of a platform for online events, including algorithms for inter-personal interaction recommendations, real-time cross-language collaboration and idea crowd-sourcing. Also developing tools to help the production of live event broadcasts and integrating the real-time collaboration into MS Teams.
.NET Core / React.js / Project Management / IP Video
- 2020 – 2021 **Freelance — ‘Surrey Tap and Trace’ Android App** *University of Surrey*
A freelance project to create an Android application to read data from encrypted campus ID cards for contact tracing at high-attendance unbooked areas of campus. Later re-developed for checking entrants against ban lists.
Involved at every phase including initial pre-development planning, a few weeks of solo development and changes with tight deadlines, and in deployment and troubleshooting during Freshers’ week.
Android / Java / NFC / Freelance
- 2018 – 2019 **Junior, prev Trainee Application Developer** *Fivium*
14 month University placement working on award-winning bespoke applications created for the public sector, developing both modern Java web apps with Spring, and with Fivium’s in-house Java-based XML forms engine, Fox. Work included large workflow and BPM related applications used by Government departments, in complex Oracle databases and PL/SQL packages.
Java / Oracle
- 2019 – 2020 **Tech Assistant, Photographer, Bar Team Member** *University of Surrey SU*
part-time
Temporary paid work in addition to hundreds of volunteer hours of technical or event roles.
Customer Service / Teamwork / Photography
- 2017 – 2020 **Lab Assistant, Open Day Speaker, Meet and Greet** *University of Surrey*
part-time
A variety of roles. Supervising undergraduate labs on topics including Machine Learning. Open/Applicant day ambassador for Dept. of Comp. Sci. with prospective students.
ML and AI / Customer Service / Teamwork / Communication

Education

- 2016 – 2020 **BSc (Hons) First Class, Computer Science** *University of Surrey*
Notable topics include: Three years of web development modules, including PHP, Javascript, Java (Spring), MySQL, Ruby on Rails, and work outside of these modules in Node, and Python. Modules in Java development and software engineering best practices. Two years of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning modules. Includes a ‘sandwich’ placement year (see Experience).
- 2014 – 2016 **A-Levels** *Poole Grammar School*
AAB A-Levels (Computing, Maths, Physics), 6 AS-levels, 12 GCSEs (9 at A*-A).

Volunteering Experience

- 2020 – 2023 **Quizmaster** *University of Surrey Students' Union*
In April 2020, offered the role of host and Quizmaster of *Hari's Challenge*, the SU's student pub quiz with sometimes hundreds of participants, as a virtual online event for lockdown. Prepared the first stream with 8 hours notice, and continued weekly throughout lockdown, including custom live graphics and a remote co-host. Continued in person for 2 years using fully custom-written quiz software.
- 2018 – 2020 **Debate Moderator** *University of Surrey Students' Union*
Believed to be the highest production value SU election event in the UK, *SurreyDecides* is watched by hundreds of students live in person and online each year. Spent three years as the head debate chair, hosting eight debates including chairing three Presidential debates. Involves a combination of public speaking skills, thinking under pressure and dynamically changing plans and questions when things get heated, and showing a range of ability between persistence and compassion depending on the topic at hand.
- 2018 – 2020 **Stage Crew Member and Webmaster** *Surrey Stage Crew*
Involved in the organisation of countless events with Stage Crew, the most active student society on campus with a history dating back to the founding of the University. Events ranged from club nights sound and lights with chart-topping acts, to society events, to awards balls in external venues, to equipping an empty marquee with all of the tech required to become the largest COVID-secure student venue in the UK.
- 2018 – 2020 **StagTV Member and Technical Manager** *StagTV*
Working closely with Stage Crew is StagTV, the student-run broadcaster and video community. In my time as a member, including a year as Technical Manager, I have seen StagTV evolve from a very small operation making occasional amateur YouTube videos, to providing professional-quality broadcast and video production services to departments and clients across campus and beyond. As Technical Manager, I was responsible for all of the equipment, including ensuring it could be borrowed for free by our members, and making sure the equipment would be in a fit and working state for this.
- 2017 – 2018 **Computing Society President** *University of Surrey Computing Society*
In my second year of University, I was the elected President of the Computing Society. During this time we organised academic events, secured sponsorship from Goldman Sachs, and arranged social events for Computer Science students to meet up and blow off steam. Events and membership reached record numbers in my year as figurehead, and we received awards for our efforts.
- 2016 – 2020 **Course Representative** *University of Surrey*
Elected by peers four years in a row to represent the cohort and resolve any issues arising with a module or the department, by communicating both with the cohort and up to faculty management. Consistently willing to ask tough questions of the senior management of the University at public meetings, and engaging with the response. Awarded PTY Course Rep of the Year, presented by the Vice-Chancellor, for a year of work on ensuring that placement year students do not feel left behind by their department while away from campus.