Samad Ali

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Education & Certifications

University of Edinburgh Sep. 2023 – May 2027

BSc Computer Science | BCS Student Member

- Developed an assistive shopping robot that won Amazon's Runner-Up Prize in a team of 8 students. Contributed through 3D modelling, robot assembly, and project management acting as a technical bridge between teams.
- Developed a self-service portal system from scratch with 3 other students. Learned requirements engineering, UML diagrams, Agile project management, Java development, version control, and JUnit testing.
- Worked as a software engineer at HYPED, the university's hyperloop team. Gained front-end experience in TypeScript, React and Git through developing interactive pages for the pod's telemetry system.

West Lothian College Aug. 2022 – June 2023

Foundation Apprenticeship in ICT: Software Development

- Completed coursework in Python data analysis using pandas, GUI development using Tkinter, and web fundamentals with HTML/CSS.

Experience

Software Engineering Intern May 2026 – Aug 2026

NatWest Group

- Developed the React/TypeScript front-end for a prototype dashboard visualising a 5-year enterprise architecture transformation across 700+ outcomes and 2,500+ applications.
- Built reusable UI components with TailwindCSS and Framer Motion across 10 feature areas, implementing global dark mode and resolving styling conflicts across independently built modules.
- Delivered a prototype walkthrough to a senior judging panel, with usability testers unanimously favouring our new interface over the existing system.
- Conducted an individual research project on 'Banking without Barriers', pitching 3 AI and accessibility aligned concepts to improve digital banking for underbanked customers.

Web Content Supervisor Intern May 2025 – May 2026

The University of Edinburgh

- Led the successful rebuild of over 7,000 web pages, four times the original target, and enhanced 15% of the University's web estate with a focus on accessibility, consistency, and content quality.
- Rehired to support a new intern cohort and lead a major website rebuild.
- Coordinated with lead publishers, mentored interns and authored a promotional blog post.

Web Content Migration Intern May 2024 – Dec. 2024

The University of Edinburgh

- Aided the migration of over 50,000 university web pages and enhanced accessibility for 4.5 million annual users.
- Audited and created web pages using a Drupal-based content management system.

Projects

Blockr - Website Blocker | *TypeScript, React, Vite, Chrome Extensions (MV3), Vitest, Figma*

- Built and published a privacy-first extension on the Chrome Web Store, keeping all data local with no backend.
- Blocked sites via Manifest V3's declarativeNetRequest API, with schedules, daily time limits and a password lock.
- Wrote Vitest suites covering blocking rules, schedules, usage tracking and storage migrations.
- Designed the UI in Figma, with light and dark themes audited to ensure they meet WCAG AA contrast.

Zen - Focus and Productivity App | *Kotlin, Android SDK, Room, MVVM, Espresso, GitHub Actions, Figma*

- Designed the app in Figma from stakeholder feedback, then built it in Kotlin with a pomodoro timer, task reminders and streak stats, earning the Edinburgh Award (Digital Skills Specialist).
- Set up GitHub Actions CI running lint, unit tests and Espresso UI tests on an emulator, with automated accessibility checks on every UI interaction.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, Java, PHP, Haskell
Libraries & Frameworks: pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Tkinter, React, Spring Boot
Developer Tools: Git, GitHub, VS Code, Figma, Postman, Docker, Excel