James Watson

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Experience

Durham University
Programming Demonstrator   *Sep 2025 - Present, Durham, England*
- Assisted in first-year Computer Science labs, guiding students through programming fundamentals and debugging in HTML, Javascript and Git.

Google DeepMind
Research Intern   *June 2025 - Sep 2025, York, England*
- Selected for the Google DeepMind Research programme, completing a funded research placement at the University of York.
- Collaborated with the RoboStar team to integrate artificial neural networks into their robotic modelling framework in Eclipse.
- Presented research findings at TAROS Robotics Conference to 30+ attendees.

IBM
Software Engineering Team Leader   *Sep 2023 – May 2024, Durham, England*
- Collaborated with IBM in a university–industry partnership to lead a team of 6 in developing an educational Unity (C#) game.
- Coordinated Agile sprints, allocated tasks, and integrated feedback from IBM mentors.

Labman Automation
Work Experience   *April 2023, Stokesley, England*
- Collaborated with engineers to program test cycles in C# to reduce testing time.
- Developed scripts to control and integrate new motor functions into proprietary software.

Projects

Mahjong AI
- Built a Reinforcement Learning–based AI that adapts to player skill, designed for teaching and engagement.

Nerf Gun AR Game
- Created an AR game at Durhack 2025 integrating a phone-controlled motorized Nerf gun via custom electronics and an Arduino.

Discord Bot
- Integrated 3 different APIs to enhance functionality of an open-source Discord bot in C++.

Image Language Identification
- Achieved >90% accuracy in classifying language from text in images with Deep Learning techniques in Python.

RAG Poisoning Defence
- Enhanced LLM retrieval-augmented generation techniques to detect and resist data poisoning, preventing incorrect information from being returned.

Volunteering

Channel Sbn
Content Creator & Presenter   *Jan 2025 - Apr 2025, Seoul, South Korea*
- Worked with a small company to produce several episodes documenting study abroad experiences, building engagement and sharing insights with peers.

Durham Anime Society
Social Media Manager   *July 2023 - July 2024, Durham, England*
- Managed social media, designed graphics, organised 40+ events, coordinated 3 collaborations.

Education

Durham University
BSc Computer Science with Year Abroad
Sep 2022 - Present
Durham, England
Expected First Class with Honours

Korea University
International Studies Program
Aug 2024 - June 2025
Seoul, South Korea

Middlesbrough Sixth Form
A-Levels
Sep 2020 - June 2022
Middlesbrough, England
Maths, Computer Science & Physics

Key Modules Studied:

Software Engineering	Cryptography
Computer Vision	Computer Graphics
Deep Learning	Data Science
Cybersecurity	System Programming
Digital Logic Design	Natural Language Processing

Skills and Interests

Languages: English (Native), Japanese (Intermediate), Korean (Beginner)

Programming Languages: Python, C++, C, C#, Java, JavaScript, SQL, Haskell

Frameworks & Tools: PyTorch, TensorFlow, OpenCV, Git, Linux, LaTeX

Other Skills: Team Leadership, Public Speaking, Social Media Management

Interests: Kendo, Baking, Model Building, Tea Culture, Language Learning

Awards

Computer Science Student of the Year.
Middlesbrough Sixth Form 2022
100% Attendance for 5 Years.
Nunthorpe Academy 2019

Summary

First-Class Computer Science student at Durham University specialising in AI, robotics, and software engineering. Experienced collaborating with leading organisations including IBM and DeepMind through university research and industry projects.