



## Summer Positions 2019

*Beautiful Canoe* is Aston's student-powered software development company. We are recruiting students to participate in our 2019 summer programme.

We have two types of positions on offer:

- ☑ **Volunteer Positions** – these are designed to give you hands-on experience of working on a project with a real client who defines the features and requirements of the software product. You will be supervised by one of the staff team at Beautiful Canoe, and work directly with your client, gaining experience in agile development methodologies and software delivery. You will need to be self-funding to participate in these internships.

Some of the benefits for you in participating in these internships are: hands-on experience that you can put on your CV; real-world software development experience; experience of working with real clients, more than a coursework project; delivering an end product that you can talk about and demonstrate to future potential employers; developing your people skills and being part of a team. On completion, we will provide a reference letter confirming your participation in the internship programme.

- ☐ **Contractual Positions** – we have several paying clients, with whom we have an ongoing relationship to develop their software products. These are formal contractual commitments and we require developers that have demonstrable experience of working in a commercial context. Experience may come by completing one of our volunteer positions, previous experience before studying at Aston, or part-time work. You will be working closely with a staff member who will be taking on the role of the product owner. These positions are funded. Benefits include: experience of working on industrial projects that have a significant and demanding user base, technical leadership – solving problems for our clients, financial remuneration of £4,500, development of your people skills, references and verification of your skills and abilities in a commercial context.

A position, either volunteer or contractual, is **a full-time, ten-week activity, based in the Aston University main building or somewhere close by**, over the summer vacation period. You will receive training in various aspects of agile software development, including Kanban, Scrum, sprints, estimation and planning.

The summer programme runs over two phases, with a break in between. The first phase is a development phase, and is planned to run from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June through to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (8 weeks); the second phase is primarily for final deployment and documentation, and runs from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September through to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (2 weeks). We take a well-earned rest during the month of August!

We have a number of volunteer and contractual positions on offer. Our positions will cover a wide range of technologies, from desktop applications made in Python + Qt to web applications in Java or PHP. Some of the web development positions may require picking up specific front-end libraries (e.g. Angular.js) and/or model-view-controller frameworks (e.g. Laravel) beyond the core HTML, CSS and JavaScript technologies. In many cases, you will have to persist the data to a database, which could be a relational one (usually MySQL or PostgreSQL) or a document-oriented one (MongoDB). We have

projects with data analysis in R as well. Additionally, we will have positions for Linux system administration (e.g. setting up LAMP servers and keeping them running smoothly).

If this sounds interesting to you, we heavily recommend attending the informal info session that will be held by two fellow students that have previously participated in the Beautiful Canoe summer program. It will be held on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at 1pm** in the Aston Computer Science Society room. This is a great chance for you to learn more and find out what Beautiful Canoe is really like.

If you are then interested in participating in the summer programme, please email me (julien@beautifulcanoe.com) from your Aston email account, with your CV and a covering letter that includes at least the following:

- Which technologies you are interested in working with, and why;
- Whether you are applying for a contractual position, a volunteer position, or would be interested in doing either;
- A brief statement outlining your suitability for the positions of your choice, and motivation for participating in the Beautiful Canoe summer programme.

Kind regards,

Julien, Sarah Antonio and Peter  
Beautiful Canoe Leadership Team