



# Daniel Moore

## Software Engineer

### What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Don't think University is the only option. A lot of IT companies offer earn as you learn or apprenticeship schemes, I would tell anyone to try your best to get into those before accepting an offer at university, you'll learn much more on the job than you will at university. I did apply for one of these schemes in Kainos but was unsuccessful as I had no coding experience. So if I had to do it all over again I would be using my after school time to try and learn some code as that initiative really impresses employers.

### Introduce yourself. Where do you work? What is your job role?

My name is Daniel Moore, I am a Software Engineer at Liberty IT in Belfast. I have worked at the company for about two and a half years including a placement year.

### What does your job entail?

As a Software Engineer who works from home full time, a typical day for me includes writing code, reviewing code and researching new technologies. I often start with reviewing emails and planning what work I am going to do for the day. I have a daily team meeting where we discuss our workload and tasks. It also gives the team an opportunity to sync up and seek help/guidance.

This is an example of a basic day as a Software Engineer, no two days are the same in my role which is why I love my job. Alongside my daily job I also volunteer for the STEM committee in the company which involves school outreach, careers fairs, tech talks and meetings depending on the work load the committee has.

### How did you get into this line of work?

I got into this line of work by following in the footsteps of my sister, I watched her go through university and get into the industry – which inspired me to do the same. For me, coming out of school it was either an art career in graphic design or get into the IT industry. I felt the IT industry would be more of a challenge and give me better career opportunities.

### Outline your career to date

My career began in Liberty IT in 2019 when I started my placement year, this presented amazing opportunities including travelling to Boston for a week just three months after I started. It also included six weeks of training provided by Instill, working with angular and SpringBoot applications creating an online insurance portal that underwriters used for creating business on various lines of insurance, which really set me up for moving on to my team as we worked on the same tech stack.

During my placement Covid hit which forced the transition from office working to home working, which, was very hard to get used to but eventually became normal. I finished my placement year in August 2020 and was offered a job for when I graduated from university in 2021.

After completing my Degree in Software Engineering, I returned to Liberty IT as an Associate Software Engineer. I started on a new team who worked with a completely new tech stack which was serverless. We used Angular and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to host our web application. While having to learn the serverless ecosystem I also had to learn a new coding language called Python. This project provided a great opportunity for me to take the lead on a piece of work which was a payment system for our online portal, which the success of led me to getting a promotion to Software Engineer in 2022.

Throughout my career so far I have also volunteered on the STEM committee which has provided great mentorship opportunities such as teaching code in local schools. I have also participated in careers fairs and tech talks. I find my STEM work rewarding as it enables me to help students who are interested in getting into the industry and show them the different pathways into the industry.

### Tell us about your qualifications and training

In school my three A-Levels were double Art and ICT. The ICT did not include anything related to Software Engineering, there was no coding or anything coding related – it was all documentation about the industry. Knowing I wanted to do Software Engineering I had to find a different route to the degree as these A Levels were not enough to apply. I got into Queen's University through the Computing and Information Technology Degree, and after my first year transferred to Software Engineering and saw out the degree from there, graduating with a 2:1.

At Liberty IT my training has included:

- Five weeks of Angular and Spring Boot
- Application Programming Interface first course
- General Compliance and DEI training
- Professional communication skills
- AWS Cloud Development Kit course

### What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

In my role there is no defined set of qualities or skills required to do the job. I believe if you are motivated and have the work ethic, then anyone can do the job and skills can be picked up along the way.

Good communication skills are required for team meetings, working with others, mentoring and working with the business on projects. Having the ability to problem solve plays a massive part in my daily job. This can be built on through daily work and since the start of my career I have drastically improved on my problem-solving skills. Reliability and initiative are also great qualities to have which go alongside work ethic.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

Outside of work in my spare time I play Hurling and Gaelic for a club in North Belfast. When I find the time, I also love playing golf.

### Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I don't really have an interesting fact about me as my time is consumed by work and sport but people are often surprised when I tell them I am also a DJ.

### Who has inspired you most in your life?

I can't say there is one single person that has inspired me most in life but I think surrounding myself with good people both in work and outside of work has helped me achieve my goals and become a better person.