

Airbnb
Digital Innovation

October 30, 2019

To whom it may concern,

my name is Jacopo Pio Gargano and I am a Computer Science engineer. Five years ago, I moved to Milano to study Computer Science and Engineering and I graduated with a score of 110 cum laude. Currently, I am an M.Sc. student specializing in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at Politecnico di Milano. I am deeply interested in Airbnb and I believe that it would be a perfect fit for my career, as it would be a great opportunity for me to share my interest in technology, apply problem solving techniques, design solutions and expand my technical knowledge.

Since I was a child, I have always been exposed to the interesting fields of technology and computers by my dad, who is an engineer. My passion for technology grew over the years, especially when, just prior to university, I spent a year abroad with AFS Intercultura, in the United States, where I took a Computer Science class. This class interested me because I was able to have a good understanding of syntaxes, logical structures and it allowed me to develop decision-making skills inherent in computer languages. In 2017 I spent an academic term at University College London, which gave me the opportunity to widen my interests in Computer Science and let me experience a different way of approaching the subject.

Over the summer of 2016 I interned at Cegeka SPA, an IT company specialized in software development. During this internship, I was asked to develop a mobile cross-platform application to allow the company employees to access the Intranet attendance service directly from their smartphone. To achieve this, I studied Xamarin and its tools available in Microsoft's Visual Studio. I was able to do this by carefully going through Microsoft's official documentation, as few tutorials or books were available. When I finally deployed the application on a real smartphone, I felt like all the in-depth studies that I had done paid off. I achieved a satisfying result and deeply impressed my manager.

Last year I worked as a software engineer for Infoservice s.r.l. where I designed and developed Web APIs for the online ticketing solution Linkavel. The technologies I used included REST APIs, Authentication and Authorization based on Microsoft Azure services and OAuth 2.0. This allowed the company to establish strong collaborations with other ones in the sector and consequently grow in the field. Furthermore, I implemented a speech-to-text module for a pharmaceutical application using Microsoft Cognitive Services, which allows engineers to make very specific medicines in industrial laboratories.

Moreover, I volunteer for two organizations. The first is AFS Intercultura, a non-profit organization that every year offers the possibility of going abroad to more than 2000 Italian high school students and hosts 500 foreign students in Italy. As president of the local chapter of Milano I coordinate local volunteers and all the activities we run throughout the city. The second is called Global Youth Parliament and its aim is to motivate young minds in societal

work, entrepreneurship, democracy and sustainable development for a better world. Together with my team, I am organizing the Global Youth Leadership Summit 2020, which will be held in Naples. As Italian Youth Ambassador, I am responsible for honoring exceptional projects related to the topics that our organization promotes.

I have always had a positive attitude towards academics, managing to organize my time and extra-curricular activities. I believe that the study method I have acquired over the years is quite efficacious and it has given me the possibility to succeed in all the subjects and projects I have undertaken so far. Having an in-depth research approach has been crucial every time I had to apply theoretical principles to concrete problems. Striving for success is what best describes my mindset. Moreover, I have established strong student-professor relationships over time and I believe this has given me the opportunity to learn more effectively and easily seek advice when needed.

I find reading research papers and attending extra-curricular courses quite interesting and pleasing. I have attended several workshops on AI and Machine Learning held by Microsoft in Milano, and I look forward to continuing discovering the technologies the industry and researchers have to offer. This is why in June 2019 I started a university program, Honours Programme – Scientific Research in Information Technology, with prof. Nicola Gatti. We are focusing our research on Algorithmic Game Theory, which studies algorithm design for strategic interactions and decision making.

Throughout the 2018/19 academic year I participated to the IDEA League Challenge Program organized by ETH Zurich, TU Delft, RWTH Aachen, Politecnico di Milano and CUT Chalmers. Four complementary modules in the form of long weekends were organized alternately at each IDEA League partner university. This program is thought for excellent students interested in future leadership roles, both in the public and private sector and therefore interested in issues at the intersection of technology and society: leadership, politics, entrepreneurship, policy making. Participating to IDEA League Challenge Program allowed me to learn about these topics, apply related theoretical concepts in real-world cases and become more aware about societal and global technology-related technical, economical and ethical issues.

In March 2019 I started Alta Scuola Politecnica, a program for M.Sc. students from Politecnico di Milano and Torino who are particularly interested in innovation. During this program we attended courses on innovation, design and decision making, which allowed us to develop multidisciplinary projects. During one of the seminars we worked on a project on the city of Matera. We were assigned a company and a specific task related to the improvement of the city of Matera and its surroundings. Together with my team, I was focused on Murgia Materana park, for which we proposed interesting accessibility solutions improving the overall experience of visitors and the quality of the park with a very low impact on nature. This project allowed me to have a better understanding of Airbnb, being your company among those involved in the seminar and consequently potentially interested in developing projects for the city of Matera. It also let me understand the opportunities there could be for Matera when innovating projects are put into practice.

Therefore, I have decided to apply for a position in Airbnb related to the development of digital innovation projects. I strongly believe that the innovation and design skills supported by the technical and theoretical knowledge acquired during my studies, especially at Politecnico

di Milano, are key to deliver digital innovation projects.

The solid and rigorous scientific background I have acquired at Politecnico di Milano and my student exchange experiences in the US and in London, have collectively made my interest in learning new approaches and exploring new specific fields grow continuously. Having been attending such prestigious institutions has given me the opportunity to always strive for more, which is also why I have chosen to apply for this position. Life has given me many opportunities to study and work in a multicultural environment, with students belonging to different academic and social backgrounds. I am sure this experience would allow me to broaden my mind, not only technically, but also on an intercultural level.

Please feel free to contact me via email or any other listed contact that you may find in my resume.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Jacopo Pio Gargano

Attached: Resume