

JAMES LAPSLIE

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Software engineer with experience delivering large-scale public sector systems and building startup products alongside university. Led development on services used by 320,000+ residents within a £6m programme, while also building AI tools, mobile apps, and an AI startup. Currently completing an MSci in Computer Science at the University of Birmingham and looking for part-time, internship, or startup engineering roles in product development, AI, and automation.

EDUCATION

University of Birmingham

Birmingham, UK

MSci Computer Science (Full-time)

Sep 2023 – Jun 2027 (expected)

- On track for **First Class** degree (Year 1: 73%, Year 2: 76%).
- Relevant modules: Machine Learning, AI, Software Engineering, Data Structures & Algorithms, Databases, Computer Networks, Cryptography, Interface Design and Security.
- **Student Enterprise Ambassador**, selected by the university to promote entrepreneurship and support student founders.

EXPERIENCE

Shropshire Council (UK Government)

Shrewsbury, UK

Senior IT Developer

Apr 2022 – Present

- Led development of digital services used by **320,000+ residents** and **5,000+ staff** across public portals and internal systems.
- Coordinated internal teams and external suppliers (PwC, C-Tech) on a **£6m digital transformation programme**, aligning service owners to modernise CRM and digital services.
- Created **AI-assisted tooling** (election parsing, directory verification) reducing manual categorisation effort by **~80%**.
- Built web services, APIs, workflows, and automation systems improving service reliability and data quality.
- Owned accessibility for key citizen journeys, embedding **UK GDS Service Standard** and **WCAG 2.2** practices across implementation and release.

Dynamics CRM Developer

2020 – 2022

- Developed CRM components, workflows, and integrations supporting citizen-service operations and case management.
- Translated policy requirements into usable digital journeys; improved reporting and data quality through validation and automation.
- Delivered rapid-response solutions during **COVID-19** (food delivery logistics, test-and-trace workflows, PPE dashboards) under tight timelines.

ICT Trainee

2018 – 2020

- Supported IT operations and device rollout, contributing to deployment of **1,000+ endpoints** across council sites.
- Built foundations in service support, endpoint management, and stakeholder-facing troubleshooting while progressing into software development and delivery.

STARTUP & PRODUCT EXPERIENCE

Morning Buddy - Founder / Product & Engineering Lead

2025 – Present

AI-powered alarm clock app (iOS, Swift, Twilio, ElevenLabs, LLMs)

- Leading a team of 4 students building an AI mobile app startup from concept to MVP.
- Designed product architecture integrating telephony APIs, AI voice generation, and LLM-driven personalised interactions.
- Responsible for product strategy, technical architecture, iOS development, and go-to-market planning.

Rosta - Engineering Contributor

London, UK

Event discovery and data platform

2026 – Present

- Designed a multi-stage scraping pipeline (extract → normalise → enrich → sync → export) turning fragmented event data into a structured, scalable system.
- Built canonical data models with deterministic IDs and deduplication, plus AI-assisted enrichment with caching.
- Designed export strategy for event listings and location-based filtering; planned analytics via Bubble workflows and GA4.

Global - Engineering Contributor

Vietnam (Remote)

Student institution platform - full-stack MVP

2026 – Present

- Built a full-stack MVP (React/Vite) guiding users through signup, CV upload, questionnaire, and personalised results.
- Handled frontend, backend/API integration, email capture, document handling. Deployed via GitHub Pages and Render.

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

STO - Symbolic Transformer Operators

2026 – Present

Novel transformer architecture research (Python, PyTorch)

- Designing a transformer that encodes tokens into a symbolic concept space, applies structured reasoning operations, then decodes back to language — targeting better coherence, fewer contradictions, and more abstract reasoning.
- Built a modular system (encoder, symbol mapper, concept workspace, symbolic attention, concept operators, memory, decoder) and tested deterministic vs probabilistic variants against baselines.
- Ran structured experiments measuring coherence, contradiction, throughput (+25 tok/s), and paraphrase stability with seeded runs and weekly experiment gates.

Full-Stack Restaurant Platform

2026

Vanilla JS frontend + NestJS/PostgreSQL backend

- Built a customer-facing ordering system with real-time cart, location-based ordering, and WhatsApp integration, plus a multi-role admin CMS with RESTful API, order state machine, and audit logging.

Recruitment CRM Platform

2025

Dynamics 365, Power Platform, Power Automate, Canvas Apps, SharePoint, AI Builder

- Built a recruitment CRM on **Dynamics 365** with **15+ custom entity tables** covering candidates, vacancies, placements, skills, compliance, and industry data.
- Designed **AI-powered document parsing** via Power Automate and AI Builder — CVs and job descriptions uploaded to SharePoint are automatically parsed to create linked records.
- Created a custom **Canvas App** giving recruiters a unified searchable view across experiences, skills, and qualifications.

Uooble

2025

University society search engine (JHipster, Spring Boot, Java)

- Built a Google-like search experience for university societies using a full-stack Java/Spring architecture.

Data Classifier

2025

Unsupervised clustering (Java, GloVe, Deeplearning4J/NDArray4J)

- Implemented an embeddings-based clustering pipeline to group unlabelled records for discovery and categorisation.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Programming: TypeScript, JavaScript, Python, Java, C#, SQL, Swift

Web & Mobile: React, Next.js, Node.js, NestJS, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, iOS (Swift)

AI & Automation: LLM integration, RAG, vector databases, embeddings, NLP, prompt engineering, workflow automation, data pipelines

Cloud & DevOps: Azure, Docker, CI/CD, Git/GitHub, Azure DevOps, Azure Pipelines, Render

Microsoft / CRM: Dynamics 365, Power Platform, Power Apps, Power Automate, Dataverse

Standards: WCAG 2.2, UK GDS Service Standard, GDPR, Agile/Scrum

Languages: English (native), Vietnamese (learning)

Interests: Competitive debate, fitness & gym, AI research, startup culture, product design

AWARDS & LEADERSHIP

- **Finalist**, Undergraduate of the Year 2026 (AI category) with **Skyscanner**.
- **Semi-finalist**, Inter-Campus Enterprise Competition 2026 (Morning Buddy).
- **Semi-finalist**, Inter-Campus Enterprise Competition 2025 (Ecclesia).
- Led a team of 8 to win the **Birmingham Project Award** (transformative technology) with **Siemens UK**.
- Led a team of 6 to complete the **Engineering Education Scheme** (6-month challenge) with **GKN Automotive**.
- **Vice-President**, University Debate Society; won bronze at the Birmingham national ProAm debate competition 2026.