

Kusal Ekanayake

UX Designer - Software Engineer - Artist

Contact

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Education

University of Canterbury
BE Software Engineering
First Class Honours
2015 - 2018

Victoria University of Wellington
Masters in User Experience
Design
2021 - 2022

Awards

**NxtStep Emerging Leaders
Award**

2018
Top 3 in Technology Category

**University of Canterbury Blues
Awards**

2018
Community Engagement and
Outstanding Contribution to the
Canterbury Community

Profile

A software engineer turned UX designer, with experience in working with users and stakeholders all the way to coding and developing solutions.

Career Objective

Having worked in the software engineering space for several years, I am eager to leverage my knowledge in development and my newly found skills in UX design to help create meaningful and positive experiences.

Experience

UX Designer

Victoria University of Wellington
2021 – 2022

During my time studying, I gained experience working with several industry clients. Carrying out UX processes to help create meaningful solutions.

Software Engineer

Verizon Connect
2016 – 2021

Verizon Connect develops software which enables companies to handle the logistics of managing their vehicles and employees. I was initially recruited as an intern, and then employed as a full-time Graduate Software Engineer.

I primarily worked in a team developing and maintaining several different mobile applications which are used by truck drivers across the world. Through this role I had experience with:

- Developing
- QA
- Automation
- Team management
- Analytics

Experience

Code Club Aotearoa

Coding Tutor

2018 – 2020

I help teach basic programming skills to primary school aged children. Currently I am a tutor at Haeata Community College teaching Scratch however, I have previously taught HTML and JavaScript. I was even featured as one of Volunteering NZs volunteers for National Volunteer week. This helped improve my **communication** skills.

University of Canterbury Computer Society

Marketing Manager

2018

I was responsible for the marketing which involved the creation of the promotional material that was used to represent the company. This included works such as T-shirt designs, posters and logos. This helped me develop my **marketing and design skills** to a more professional level as I had to work with several software organisations from industry

Startup Weekend Christchurch

Generate - Designer

2019

I participated in the startup weekend event and created an ongoing initiative to help generate positive social media interactions. This focused on educating young people to innovate better ways of using social media. This required me giving technical presentations and crafting project plans allowing me to develop my **presentational, planning and teamwork skills**.

Youth Voice Canterbury

Secretary and team member

2018 - Present

I was a member of a group of three that help young people throughout Canterbury become more engaged with their communities and their political system. Youth Voice Canterbury holds regular workshops and opportunities to connect, develop and strengthen all-youth led organisations and young people throughout Canterbury to be better leaders. This helped develop my **communication, teamwork, organisational and marketing skills**.

Freelance Creative Work

Design and Photography

2018 - Present

In my spare time, I am often commissioned design and photography work. I have photographed for events, people and musicians. I have also created and grown brand identities for organisations and festivals. This has helped me cultivate my **communication, design and creative skills** to a professional degree.

Hobbies & Interests

- Climbing
- Photography
- Design
- Cooking
- Music