

Matthew Leighton

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Skills

- **Languages:** Python | JavaScript | SQL | PHP | HTML | CSS
- **Frameworks:** Django | Flask | Magento | WordPress
- **Libraries:** Numpy | OpenCV | Matplotlib | Jest | Bootstrap | jQuery | D3.js | Pandas
- **Other:** Linux | Git | PostgreSQL | Node | Nginx | Docker | Jira | Unity | OriginLab | LaTeX
- **Spoken Languages:** English (native) | German (conversational)

Experience

Research Assistant [Leipzig University of Applied Sciences \(HTWK\)](#) *Leipzig, Germany* **Jan 2022 - Dec 2022**

- Analyzed and transformed video footage using Python computer vision library OpenCV, reducing perspective-based error due to non-standard camera positions in our test data by an average value of 42%. This allowed an existing product to potentially be used by a wider demographic of users.
- Built simulated models of real-world scenarios using game engine Unity, allowing the problem to be explored while real-world data was limited.
- Frequently presented progress to both team members involved in the project, and other members of the wider research group. Interactive graphs created with Matplotlib were used to effectively communicate data and results, supporting collaboration and the sharing of ideas.
- Ensured work was well documented, allowing future research to proceed from my findings.

Junior Backend Web Developer [Rixxo](#) *Bristol, UK* **Aug 2016 - Sep 2018**

- Built and maintained eCommerce stores using the PHP frameworks Magento and WordPress in an agile environment for a variety of client businesses.
- Wrote tests for React applications, using the Jest testing framework, following principles of test-driven development. This helped speed up the development cycle, as new changes could be applied without fear of breaking existing site functionality.
- Handled client support tickets, ensuring a guaranteed first response within one hour, and average same-day resolution. These involved fixing bugs, communicating answers directly to the client, and escalating issues to appropriate team members.
- Wrote documentation in Confluence for common processes, which improved onboarding of new developers, and helped create a repository of company knowledge. This also involved developing a client-facing support base, which improved client collaboration and reduced the number of incoming support tickets.

Camera Assistant [BBC/Freelance](#) *UK* **May 2014 - Aug 2015**

- Contributed to the production of major television shows such as Sherlock, Wolf Hall, and Doctor Who.
- Proven ability to work effectively with a team, adapting to new and changing situations to ensure the smooth running of the production.

Education

BSc Physics [Leipzig University](#) *Leipzig, Germany* **Oct 2018 - Dec 2022**

- Grade: 2.3
- Thesis: "Feasibility of Automated Bird's Eye View Estimation Using Person Detection in Indoor Bakery Scenes"

BA (Hons) Film and Video [University of Wales, Newport](#) *Newport, UK* **Sep 2011 - Jun 2014**

- Grade: 2:1

Personal Projects

- [Product Lifespan](#): Budget assistance website built using Django. Data stored in a PostgreSQL database. Hosted using Unicorn and Nginx. **(Jan 2023)**
- [Toggle Timelines](#): Flask app which displays D3.js visualizations based on data taken from the API of the time tracking service Toggl. **(Aug 2020)**