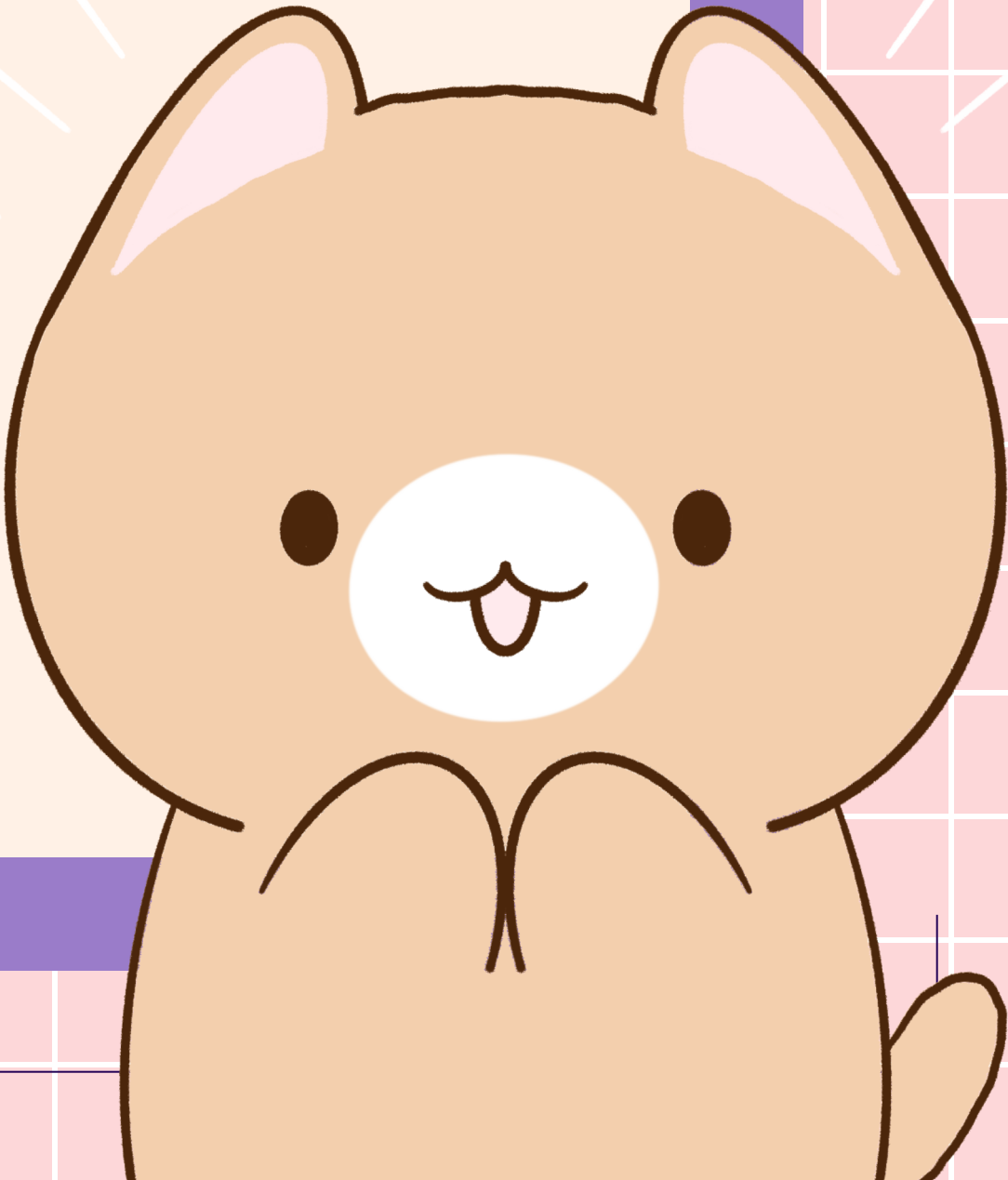
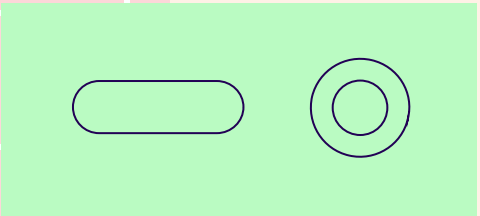


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Getting your First Co-op

By Iris Mo - 3B CS



Hi! I'm Iris

- 3B Computer Science Student (Class of 2028)
- Co-ops: SWE @ Guelph Eye Clinic, Ford, Shopify, Uber
- Hobbies: Board games, baking, bouldering
- Note: this is tailored towards software engineering jobs

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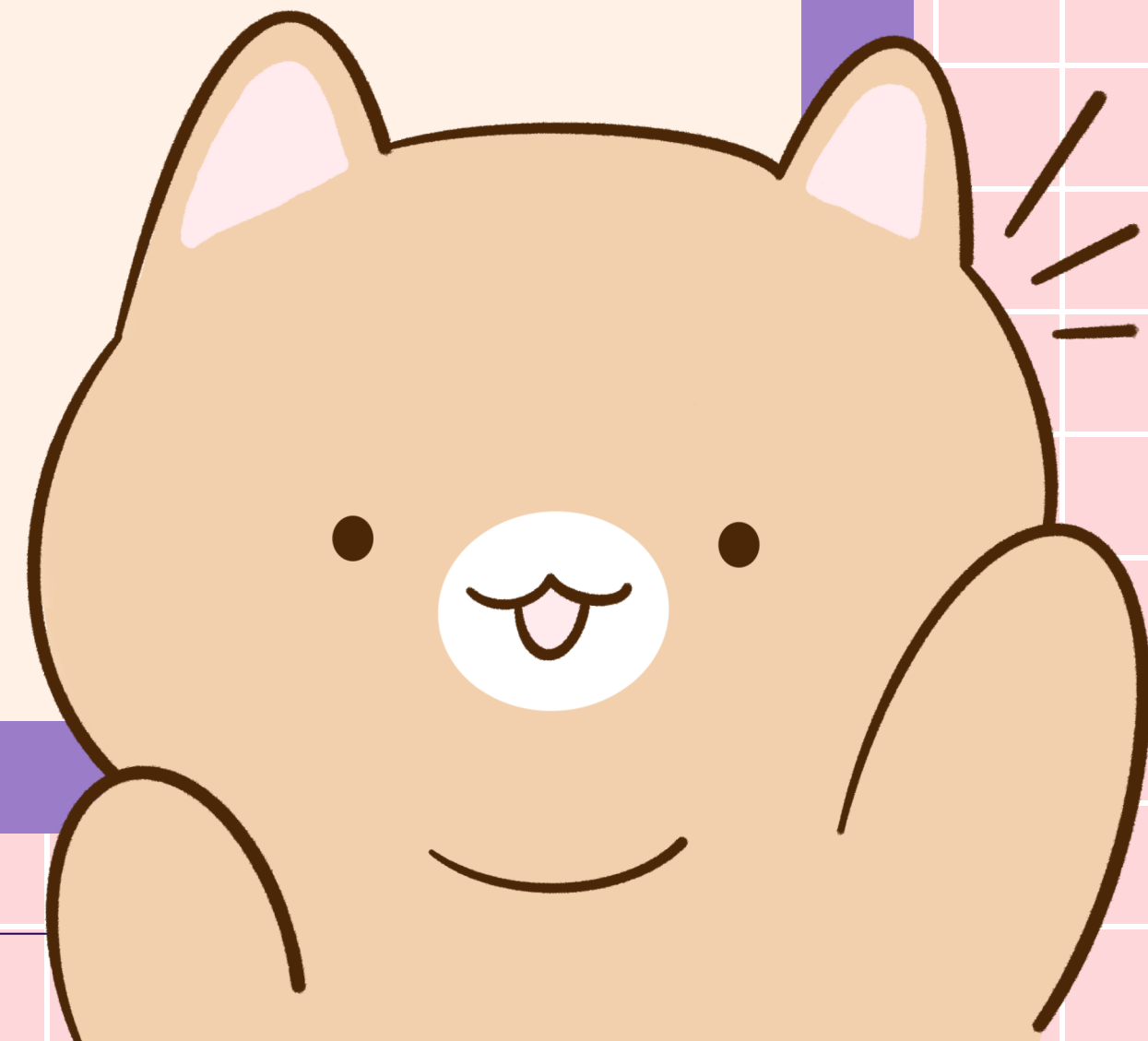


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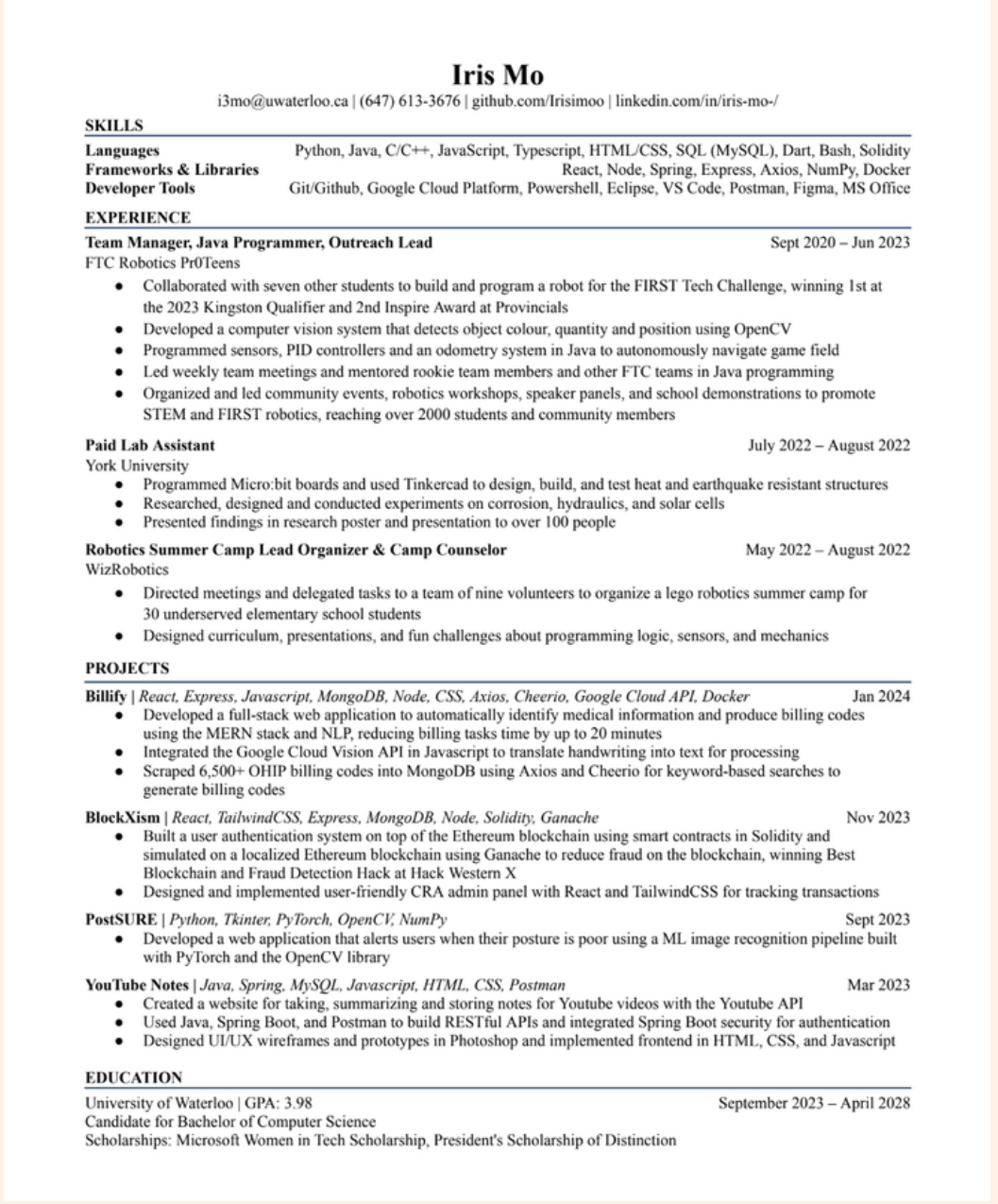
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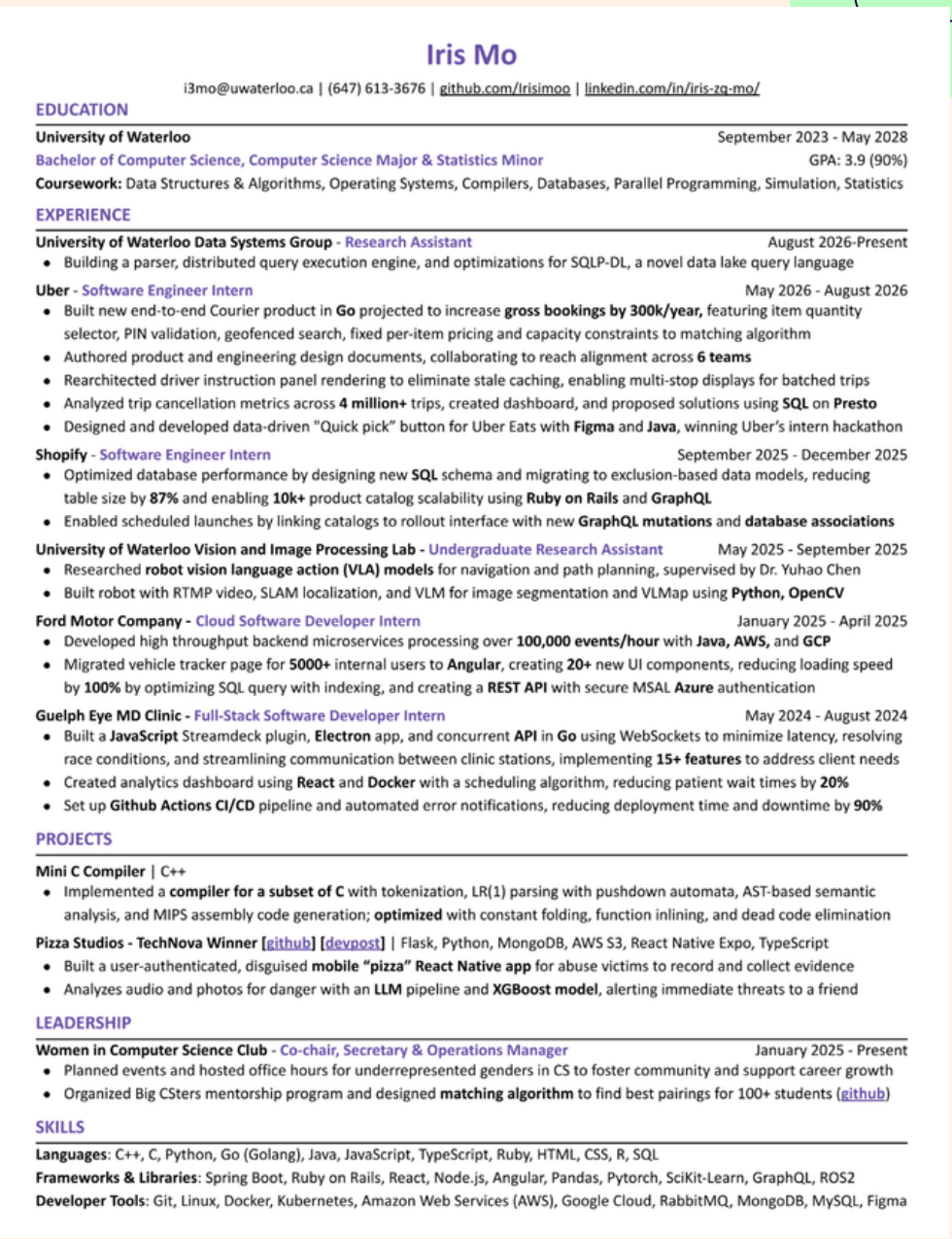
What to put on your resume

Recommended format:

- One page maximum
- Impact focused bullet points in XYZ format: "Accomplished [X] as measured by [Y] by doing [Z]"
- Content:
 - Name
 - School, major, courses, grad date
 - Experiences
 - Extracurricular: leadership, clubs
 - Projects
 - Skills: coding languages + tools
- Use Jake’s Resume Template (overleaf)



This is my resume in 1B for my first co-op to show what you can fill it with without previous experience



My current resume

Tips

Get resume reviewed by peers!

- Clubs (E.g. WiCS, MathSoc) often run resume review sessions
- Reach out to upper years (“Hi, I’m X, I’m starting to apply for my first co-op, and I would appreciate any feedback on my resume”)

It’s ok if you don’t have much experience yet! Get involved:

- Clubs: WiCS, Computer Science Club, Data Science Club
- Design teams: Blueprint, Wat.ai, Waterloo Aerial Robotics, Formual Electric – under Engineering, but anyone can join!
- Hackathons: Hack the North, Hack Western
- Build side projects (with friends!)
 - Socratica - coworking sessions



Applying for Jobs

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Where do you Apply?

Waterloo Works

- Opens Winter 2027
- Send up to 500 applications
- 2 job boards:
 - full cycle service
 - employee student direct
- Rank/match: employers rank students & students rank them back

External Applications

- Opens as early as Fall, depends on company
- Github lists:
 - <https://github.com/SimplifyJobs/Summer2027-Internships>
- Job boards: LinkedIn
- Extensions like Simplify help fill out application



Tips



Connect with Employers

Cold outreach, club/hackathon sponsors, employer info sessions



Don't be too Picky

Apply to both reaches and “targets,” prioritize learning opportunities



Start Early

Expect to dedicate a good amount of time to applying



Expect Rejection

Don't take it personally!

Interviewing

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Interview Types

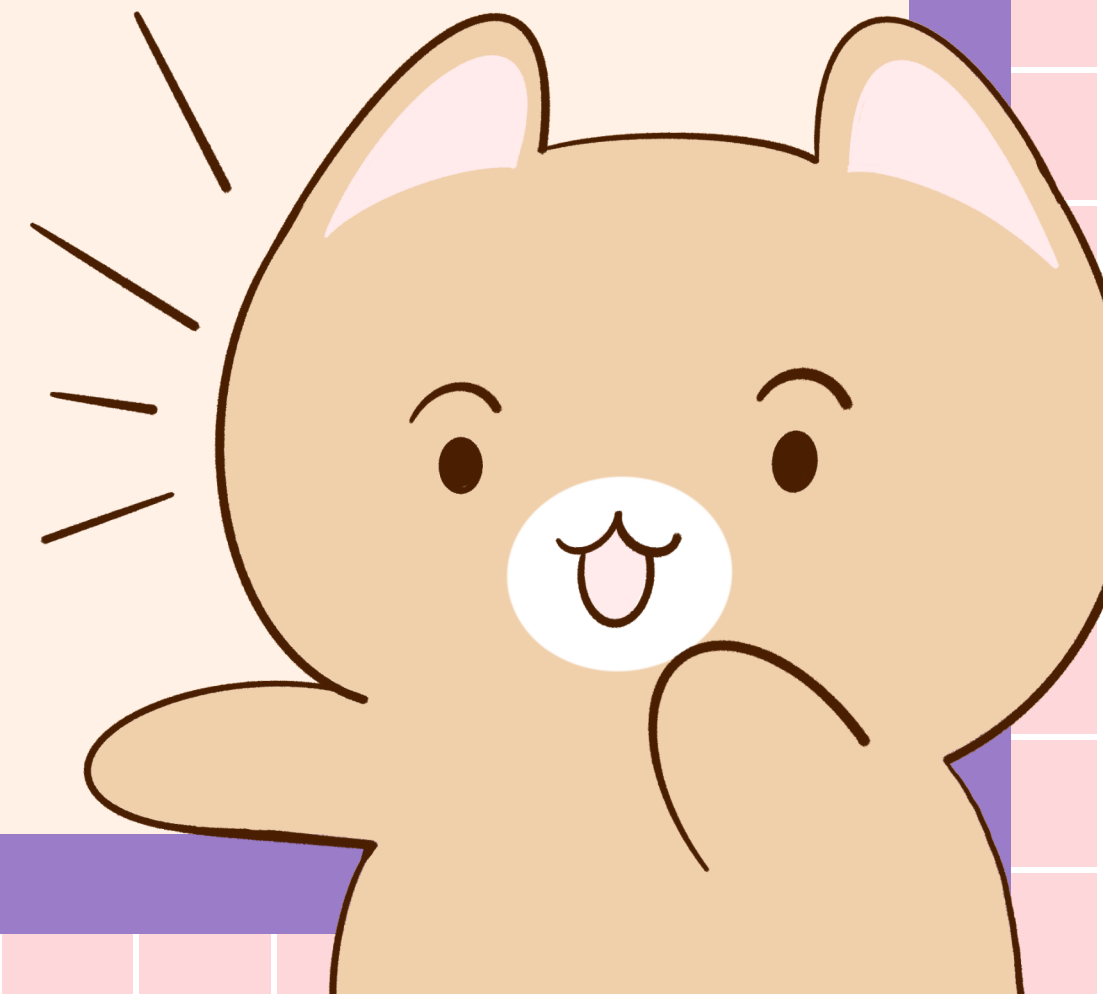
Technical: testing your technical knowledge

- Online assessments
- Live coding problem (Algorithms, Object Oriented Programming)
- Trivia/knowledge questions
- System design
- Take home project

Behavioural: testing your soft skills, background, and culture fit

- Quizzing you on your resume (can be more technical)
- Asking about past experience and how you work with others

Tip: Ask recruiter or former interns what the interview format is



Technical Interviews

Basics

Choose a programming language and get very familiar with the syntax

1

Practice

Problem solving: Leetcode
Environment: Mock interviews with peers

2

3

4

Data Structures + Algorithms

Build strong fundamentals, learn common question patterns. Resources: class (CS 246, CS 341), Neetcode 150

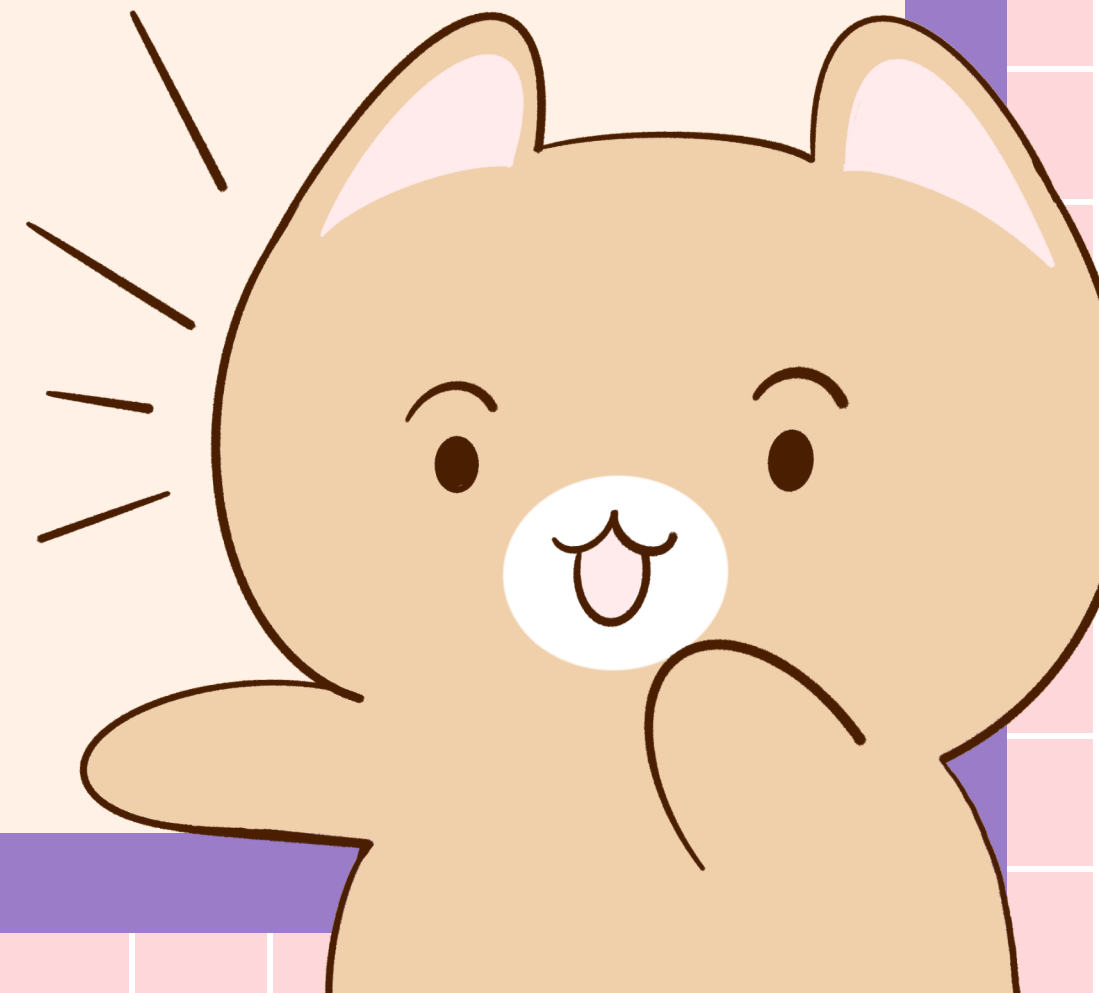
Communicate

Focus on clear communication and explaining your thoughts.

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Behavioural Interviews

- Know every detail about your resume
 - Keep notes of your work
- Common questions:
 - “Introduce yourself” or “What makes you a good candidate?”
 - “Why do you want to work at x company?”
 - “Tell me about a time when you...”
- Prepare questions for your interviewer to show interest
 - Example: “What does a day working at x company look at?”
- Show your personality - be someone they want to work with!



Receiving the Offer!

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How WaterlooWork Works

- Companies you interview with will rank candidates (#1 – most interested, 10 – least) and then you rank them back 1-10
 - If they rank you 1, you will see on WW; if you are ranked 2-10, you will see “ranked”, otherwise you see “unranked”
- You are matched based on which combination of your rankings and the company rankings make the smallest number (Ex: 1+1 = 2 is lowest score)
- You get 5 “not interested” rankings per term

(Job ID) Job Title Organization - Division	Job Location	Salary	Per	Currency	Employer Ranking	Employer Notes	Ranking Deadline	My Ranking
View (ID 1) Title A Company A	Toronto, ON	3750.00	Monthly	CAD	1	Your previous work experience and skillset would be such a wonderful asset to our team!	07/18/2025 11:00 AM	Pending
View (ID 2) Title B Company B				CAD	1		07/18/2025 11:00 AM	Pending
View (ID 3) Title C Company C	Remote	23.07	Hourly	CAD	Ranked		07/18/2025 11:00 AM	Pending
View (ID 4) Title D Company D					Not Ranked	Thanks so much for taking the time to interview with us! While we are looking for a candidate with a different skillset, we really enjoyed getting to know you, and we encourage you to apply to our postings again next term.	07/18/2025 11:00 AM	Not Ranked

Final Advice

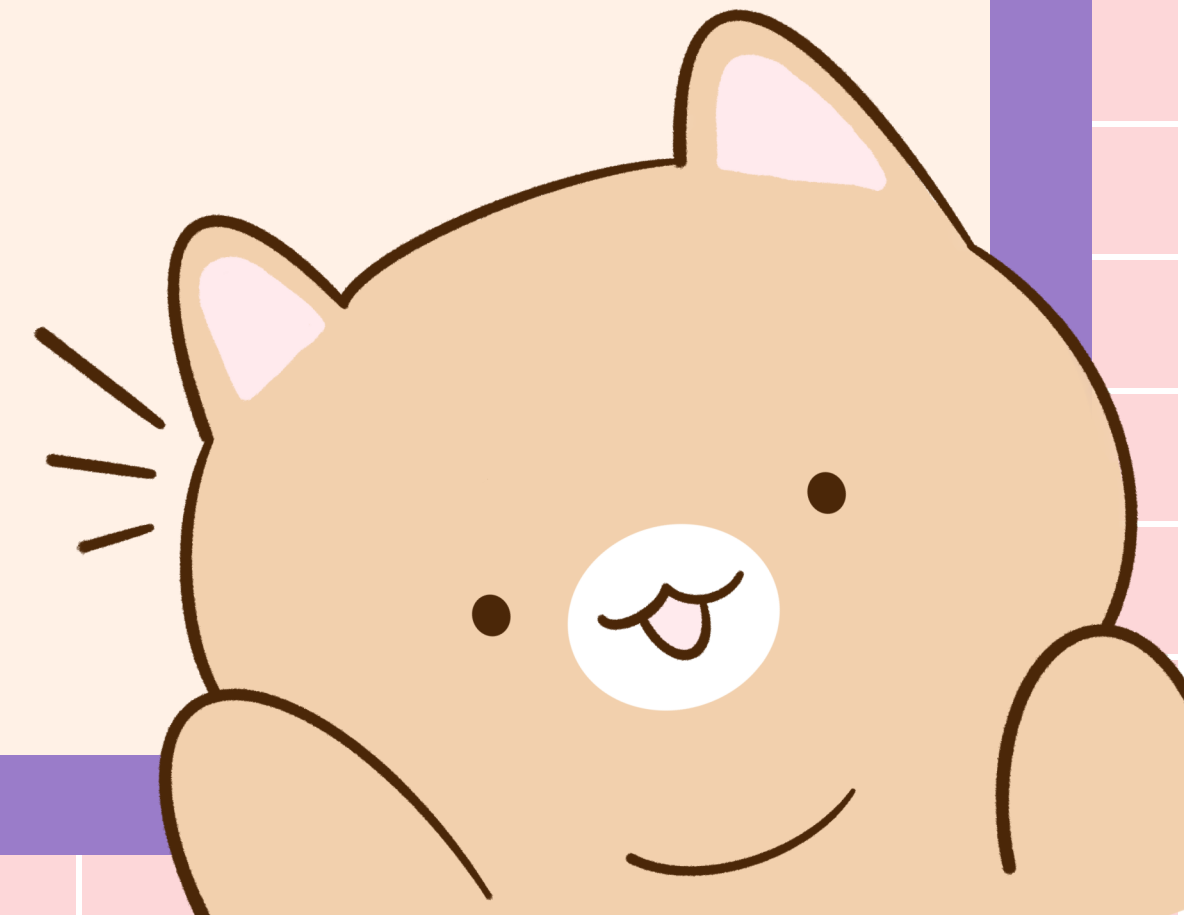
It's ok to say no to a job offer

- Ask previous interns about their experience - beware of red flags
- Use questions for interviewer to see if you would enjoy working there
- Prioritize learning opportunities, type/quality of work over prestige or pay

It's normal to enter the continuous round or do WeAccelerate as your first co-op

- WeAccelerate is an alternative experience where you learn industry skills, complete a team-based project and earn a (flex) co-op credit!
- More chances to gain work experience and try different jobs/industries in future co-ops

Stay open minded and trust the process! You got this!



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/iris-zq-mo/>



Thank you!

Feel free to reach out with any questions or for advice!



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