



HOW TO START ON

JANE ZENG

ABOUT ME

- Hi, I'm Jane Zeng!
- 2A Software Engineering Student
- Interned at Scotiabank Global AI&ML over the summer
- Fun fact 1: I love all types of music. Literally from classical to metal.
- Fun fact 2: I can do the worm (not now, sorry 🤪)



WHAT'S A "NEW



TECHNICAL
SOMETHING TO SHOWCASE
YOUR TECHNICAL SKILLS



NON-TECHNICAL
NEW COMMITMENTS,
GOING TO THE GYM, ETC.

THE IMPORTANCE OF

LEARN, LEARN, LEARN!

- TBH, first year is too fundamental
- Projects and how they were used >>> Physics, Racket, linear algebra

SHOW YOUR PASSION

- You show that enjoy what you do outside the classroom
- You **prove** that you're passionate
- Actions speak louder than words

JOB SEARCH

- A great place to start when you “don’t have experience”
- Demonstrate proactivity, initiative, and technical skill all at the same time

THE GREAT QUEST

01

Design Teams

They're some of the school's biggest prides! Many are complete beginner friendly and you'll learn so much from their projects.

03

Set a Routine

Block off time to work on these projects, just like your classes. Also, try Socratica.

02

Hackathons

Great way to "force" yourself to be creative and stretch your limits. You win? Great. Even if you don't win, you can get plenty of inspiration.

04

What do YOU want?

Try to think of something special to you and you personally would use.



COMMON CHALLENGES



I don't have any experience

- Great time to learn! Everyone starts somewhere
- I recommend: Coursera, <https://open.cs.uwaterloo.ca>
- Try to “hone in”
- Don't try to learn everything at once



I have no idea what to build!

- Look at your own life. What's a problem you observe?
- What would you actually use?
- Build for yourself, not your resume. Employers see way too many “to-do lists”



I lack time and motivation

- If there's a will, there's a way
 - Did I mention a routine?
 - Remember what you can get out of this project
 - DO focus in school. DON'T make it your whole life
- 



Q&A



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Feel free to connect!

www.linkedin.com/in/jane-zeng45

jj2zeng@uwaterloo.ca

IG: @jan3_z