

Ben Mallen

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SUMMARY

Junior Software Developer trained at Northcoders, with a strong foundation in full-stack JavaScript, React, Node.js, and PostgreSQL, and growing experience with TypeScript and cloud platforms. Passionate about building intuitive, scalable applications and integrating RESTful APIs into dynamic front-ends. Skilled in TDD using Jest and Supertest, version control with Git, and CI/CD workflows. Proven ability to work in fast-paced, team-based environments, supported by a background in client-facing roles and project leadership.

PROJECTS

NC-NEWS-BE ([Github repo](#)), *Software Engineer Trainee*

Nov 2024 – Dec 2024

Technologies: Node.js, Express.js, PostgreSQL, Jest, Supertest, Git

- Developed a RESTful API for a Reddit-style forum with full CRUD functionality for articles, comments, users, and topics
- Implemented sorting, filtering, and pagination to enhance API usability and performance
- Built and tested multiple endpoints using **Jest** and **Supertest**, achieving high test coverage and reliability
- Applied robust error handling and validation across all routes
- Enabled CORS to support secure cross-origin requests

FE-NC-NEWS ([Github repo](#)), *Software Engineer Trainee*

Dec 2024 – Jan 2025

Technologies: React, React Router, Axios, Javascript(ES6+), HTML, CSS

- Engineered a user-facing **React** app to display and interact with news content from a RESTful API, emphasizing usability and responsiveness
- Built dynamic filtering and sorting by topic, date, and popularity for enhanced UX
- Implemented interactive features including comment posting and up/down voting
- Integrated backend API using **Axios** and handled asynchronous data fetching and errors
- Designed and developed modular, reusable **React** components for maintainability
- Created responsive layouts and navigation to support mobile and desktop devices

EXPERIENCE

TECH RETURNERS, *Junior Software Engineer*

May 2025 – present

- Developing "Exhibition Curation Platform" on a 4-week Launchpad Programme for virtual art exploration
- Integrating 2+ museum APIs using JavaScript/TypeScript for cross-collection artwork searching and filtering
- Building MVP features for Browse art, viewing details, and creating user-curated virtual exhibitions
- Ensuring the platform meets requirements for a responsive, accessible UI and secure API key management
- Managing project towards public deployment and comprehensive README documentation within the 4-week scope

HW SOLUTIONS, *Electrical Engineer (Contractor & Freelance)*

Jan 2022 – present

- Designed, installed, and tested HVAC control systems across a variety of commercial and large-scale industrial settings
- Contributed expertise to high-profile projects for clients including Naval defence organisations, NHS hospitals, and Bletchley Park
- Collaborated as the primary contractor for Johnson Controls, ensuring HVAC system functionality, precision, and client satisfaction
- Currently undertaking freelance electrical projects and services focused solely on domestic properties

GIRAFFE CONTROLS, *Production Manager (HW Solutions Group)*

June 2022 – July 2024

- Streamlined workflows & supply chain via Bit Systems/Sage, boosting inventory & accuracy
- Coordinated with teams, suppliers & key client GIS Ltd. for punctual global order fulfilment
- Managed full production lifecycle & quality for specialized cable sets & control systems
- Improved manufacturing processes using engineering principles, enhancing efficiency & reliability
- Resolved complex production challenges & optimized bespoke controls with technical engineering support

NEW HORIZONS, *Support Worker*

Sep 2020 – Jan 2022

- Fostered trust and positive relationships while supporting children with complex behavioural needs
- Empowered individuals to achieve their personal goals through tailored one-to-one support

FRONT ROW & STAVES MUSIC SCHOOL, *Music Teacher*

May 2018 – Feb 2020

- Adapted instructional strategies to deliver engaging lessons for diverse learners, including students requiring support.
- Developed innovative lesson plans that significantly enhanced student engagement and improved learning outcomes
- Established collaborative partnerships with parents, teachers and carers to create positive, high-achieving learning environments.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHCODERS, *Software Engineer Trainee*

Oct 2024 – Feb 2025

- Gained hands-on experience in full-stack JavaScript development, including RESTful API design with Express and dynamic UIs with React
- Applied test-driven development (TDD) and pair programming to write clean, maintainable, and well-tested code
- Built and deployed SQL-backed servers, with integrated CRUD operations, MVC architecture, and CI/CD pipelines
- Designed and implemented responsive, interactive frontends using React, HTML, CSS, and third-party APIs
- Collaborated in a team environment using Agile practices such as daily stand-ups, sprint planning, and retrospectives

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR IT, *BCS certificate in Organisational Behaviour*

Oct 2023 – Nov 2023

- Gained a solid foundation in organisational structure, behaviour, and culture, supporting effective business analysis
- Developed understanding of financial principles, including project finance and financial reporting
- Learned to evaluate internal and external factors impacting organisational performance and operating models

CITY & GUILDS, *Level 3 Diploma in Electrical Installations*

Sep 2021 – May 2023

- Studied electrical theory, including principles of current, voltage, resistance, and power in AC/DC systems
- Learned regulatory frameworks and safety standards, with emphasis on the IET Wiring Regulations (BS 7671)
- Completed coursework in circuit design, system planning, and the fundamentals of electrical installation techniques

EDUCATION

University of Salford

July 2020

Postgraduate Certificate in Building Surveying

Leeds College of Music

June 2013

Bachelor of Arts in Jazz Music

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & Databases: JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript, SQL, HTML, CSS, PostgreSQL, MongoDB

Frameworks & Libraries: React, Node.js, Express.js, Axios, TanStack Query, React Router

Tools & Practices: Git, GitHub, Jest, Supertest, Firebase, Netlify, Vercel, RESTful APIs, MVC, Agile, TDD, CI/CD