



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

THE COGNNI BSc COMPUTER SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk





THANK YOU.

As students are being hit with some of the toughest financial challenges of recent memory, the support of the Coggni BSc Computer Science Scholarship is continuing to ensure stability and security for its recipient.

Studying during the pandemic was a disorienting and challenging task and the Coggni BSc Computer Science Scholarship played an important role in allowing its recipients to overcome the barriers they faced.

Throughout this report you will read about the impact you have on our students and their gratitude to you. Not only do you help them to afford to buy course books, laptops, and other materials that they need for their studies, but your support also relieves a level of stress associated with not having enough money and boosts the confidence of the students. It motivates them in their studies and inspires them to do their best.

With the most disruptive phase of the pandemic over, the financial burden on students over the next few years will be greater than any in recent memory. Your scholarship has never been more important in ensuring access to opportunities for disadvantaged students who deserve to be recognised for their potential.

ABOUT THE COGNNI BSc COMPUTER SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

As increasing demands are being placed on technologically driven businesses, to deliver quickly and efficiently, the sector has been required to respond with the development of innovative and forward-thinking leaders.

This is a challenge local software company, Cognni Limited, have responded to with a scholarship in partnership with the university.

Based in Horsforth, Cognni is supporting the education of the next generation of students, in line with emerging technologies and a cutting-edge curriculum, to guarantee the highest quality of professional development.

The scholarship is a cash award of £15,000 to one first year student, paid in instalments over three years. Applicants need to be studying BSc Computer Science, have an annual household income of £25,000 or less and have a permanent home address in Yorkshire or the surrounding area.

Leeds Beckett University are exceptionally grateful for the generous support of Cognni towards this scholarship.

THE 2021/22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Brandon John-Baptiste

BSc (Hons) Computer Science
2021/22

What did receiving the scholarship mean to you?

“Receiving the scholarship meant that I could shift my entire outlook on how I approach learning new skills. In the past I would often reach financial roadblocks that would limit or even stop me from progressing further with a skill. Either I lacked the computational power required to run a programme or couldn't afford the software that had access to all the features so I would be unable to continue my learning.

After receiving the scholarship, I am now able to pursue any idea to its full extent, completely engrossing myself in a certain topic or being able to create an application I've always wanted to without any limitations.”

How have you used the scholarship funds so far?

“One of the first major purchases I made was a new laptop, with specifications high enough to run all the software I need for my projects. The monitor on my previous laptop had broken, so with a new laptop I was able to use its portability to bring with me to university and allowed me take me work with me wherever I wanted.

At the end of my first semester we started using Raspberry Pis (small factor computers) and working with electronic components to build small electronic devices. Working on electronics and building small projects using a Raspberry Pi was something I really enjoyed during that module and when it ended I purchased my own so that I could continue to build on what I had already learned in that module.”



"I also picked up a couple of courses on the programming languages we were using during our modules so that I could build on my knowledge and gather a much more in-depth understanding of how that language worked. This in turn helped me when working on the programming assignments as I had a lot more experience with the language and had worked on similar projects through these courses."

What have you enjoyed most about your course so far?

"One thing I've enjoyed the most is learning about all the fundamentals of computing and being able to relate that information with previous knowledge to build a more complete understanding of how things work at all levels. Seeing how all these concepts fit together has allowed me to appreciate how complex systems are developed over time and how each small part is designed in such a way that the whole works consistently and reliably."

What are your plans for the summer?

"During this summer I've taken time to summarise and build on concepts I've learnt during my first year. This included things such as expanding my knowledge of the Python language by taking the applications I created and adding more functionality. For example, all our programmes for the module were text-based so I took it upon myself to learn how to create a GUI for my programmes and recreated them all with a unique GUI.

I'm also looking further ahead and revisiting previous work in web applications, so that when I start my module on web applications, I have a baseline to help build my knowledge on. I have started looking for summer placement opportunities and placement years, looking specifically at what skills they are searching for and how I can develop my own skills so that I can stand out compared to other applicants for these roles."

What would you say to Cognni for their support?

"This scholarship has completely changed my general outlook on my future in computing. I now focus much more on how I can reach my career goals and aspirations, but also how I can now look further. My goals and aspirations now are more about how I can reach the top of my field and work at places where I can make a real difference. Without the scholarship I used to feel like I worked twice as hard to just to be on an even playing field with everyone else. Now I work twice as hard to be a level above so that I can create change with the future work I do in computing."

"I used to feel like I worked twice as hard to just to be on an even playing field with everyone else."

"Now I work twice as hard to be a level above so that I can create change with the future work I do in computing."

WITH THANKS

The support provided to our students through the Cognni BSc Computer Science Scholarship makes a real difference to students and the outcomes of their university experience.

Alumni and friends of the university can find more information about the Cognni BSc Computer Science Scholarship, including how to support at:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/alumni/donate/scholarships-and-funds/cognni-BSc-computer-science-scholarship/>