

# Darren Lester

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[darrenlester.com](http://darrenlester.com)

I am a full stack software engineer who is passionate about creating great products which make a difference in people's lives and meet business goals.

## Work History

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[Findmypast](#) Software Development Engineer 2018 – Present  
Development of Findmypast's [community shared tree](#) web application. Working within a microservices architecture with React, GraphQL, Apollo, Node.js and the FamilySearch API.

[Dundee Satellite Receiving Station](#) Software Systems Specialist 2016 – 2018  
Web development, system administration and user support at the University of Dundee's Satellite Receiving Station.

- Developed the [geostationary satellite animation viewer](#).
- Developed new [polar satellite image viewer](#).
- Created responsive designs for critical web applications.
- Implemented unit test suites for web applications.
- Rewriting legacy C CGI applications in PHP.

[Space Technology Centre](#) Software Developer 2014 – 2016  
C++ and Java Development of version 4 of the University of Dundee's [PANGU](#) (Planetary and Asteroid Natural scene Generation Utility) simulation software for the European Space Agency.

- Redesigned and implemented command line interface.
- Redesigned and implemented parameter file parser.
- Designed and implemented support for new asteroid model format.
- Added Java Swing GUI support for new features.
- Software specification and documentation.

## Education

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MSc Applied Computing University of Dundee 2013 – 2014  
(with Distinction)  
Master's project – Asteroid Sample Return Mission Simulator

BSc Physics University of Dundee 2009 – 2013  
(First Class Honours)  
Awards: Peter LeComber Memorial Prize, David Ovenstone Memorial Prize, James Durham Prize

## Certifications

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Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2 2015

## Personal Projects

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In my spare time I like to work on personal projects and maintain my personal site [darrenlester.com](http://darrenlester.com) where I blog about what I learn about software development.

<a href="#">Japanese Translator Bot</a>	Node.js Facebook chat bot. Over 1000 monthly users.
<a href="#">Furigana Toggle</a>	Chrome and Firefox extension for Japanese reading practice. Over 500 users.
<a href="#">Kana</a>	Android app providing a reference for basic Japanese characters.
<a href="#">Greta's Poetry</a>	Progressive Web App of my grandmother's poetry.

## Skills

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Natural languages: English (native), Japanese (intermediate)

Programming languages: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Node.js, PHP, C++, Java, Bash, Python, Ruby, Haskell

Frameworks and libraries: React, Apollo, Styled Components, Formik

Tools: Git, Jest, Apache, Kubernetes, Graylog, Graphite, Grafana

Best practices: Clean Code, SOLID, Design patterns, TDD, functional programming

I strive to consider all aspects of development such as maintainability, performance, accessibility and SEO. I am committed to personal development and enjoy keeping up to date with web standards and development best practices by reading blogs, listening to podcasts, going to conferences and meetups.

## Hobbies

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Japanese – An interest in Japanese animation led to a fascination with the language. I have passed the second highest level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Music – I have been playing the electric guitar since I was 12. I am interested in guitar effects pedals and have experimented building a few in the past.

Fitness – I enjoy staying in shape by running and playing squash.

Cooking – I am currently trying to improve my cooking skills. On a recent trip to Valencia I took an evening course to learn to make an authentic Paella.

## Profiles

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LinkedIn: [darren-lester](#)

Twitter: [@DarrenSSLester](#)

GitHub: [darren-lester](#)