

Darren Lester

darren@darrenlester.com

darrenlester.com

LinkedIn: [darren-lester](#)

Twitter: [@DarrenSSLester](#)

GitHub: [darren-lester](#)

Stockopedia

10/21 - Present

Senior Front End Engineer. remote, UK

Working on the Growth team

Partnerize

Senior Front End Software Engineer. remote, UK

08/20 - 10/21

Front End Software Engineer. Newcastle, UK

08/19 - 08/20

Working on the front end of Partnerize's analytics features

(React, Redux, TypeScript, Storybook, Jest, React Testing Library, Cypress, Storybook, GitLab)

- Ownership of front end testing - lead an initiative for front end integration testing to reduce reliance on expensive Selenium tests and reduce our deploy times
 - setup and maintenance of testing tooling and utilities
 - wrote testing guidelines
 - knowledge sharing of Jest, React Testing Library and testing best practices
 - management of flaky tests - detection, triage, delegation, fixing.
- Contributed to hiring - reviewed CVs, devised technical interview questions on React, CSS and testing, held 30+ interviews and coding tasks, contributed to hiring decisions
- Assisted with onboarding of new engineers
- Performance optimisation - reduced time to render analytics reports by 60% via optimising network requests, eliminating unnecessary renders, optimising CSS in JS
- Contributed to React component library

Findmypast

05/18 - 08/19

Software Development Engineer. Dundee, UK

Full-stack development of family tree web app

(React, Styled Components, Node.js, GraphQL, Go, AWS, Kubernetes)

- Agile, Pair programming, TDD, trunk-based development and continuous deployment
- Development of Node.js GraphQL and Go REST APIs
- Mentored intern for 3 months
- Member of software architecture group contributing to decisions for shaping the platform
- Presented regularly at team knowledge sharing sessions on topics including: Chrome dev tools, flexbox, stacking contexts and z-index, React portals, Go
- Regularly demoed new features to the entire company

Dundee Satellite Receiving Station, University of Dundee

01/16 - 03/18

Software Systems Specialist. Dundee, UK

Full stack web development, system administration and user support. Developed image viewers for polar and [geostationary satellites](#)

(JavaScript, jQuery, HTML, CSS, PHP, C, Apache)

Space Technology Centre, University of Dundee

11/14 - 01/16

Software Developer. Dundee, UK

Development of the [PANGU](#) v4 simulation software for the European Space Agency. Developed CLI, parameter file parser, asteroid model support, GUI support. (C++, Java Swing)

Education

MSc Applied Computing (with Distinction), University of Dundee	2013 - 2014
BSc Physics (First Class Honours), University of Dundee	2009 - 2013

Certifications

Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2	2015
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Personal Projects

darrenlester.com

Personal website and blog. Learned a lot about SEO to help my site's rankings.

[Furigana Toggle](#)

Chrome and Firefox extension for aiding Japanese reading practice. 800+ users

[Japanese Translator Bot](#)

Chat bot using Node.js, express, Facebook and Google APIs. 1000+ monthly users

[Greta's Poetry](#)

PWA of my grandmother's poetry. Improved my knowledge of accessibility and typography.

[Kana](#)

Android app for basic Japanese character reference. 500+ installs

Open Source

[Rikaikun](#)

Contributed to the popular Japanese dictionary Chrome extension including improving the speed of dictionary loading and upgrading the options page.

Other Misc Tools

Git, GitHub, GitLab, Docker, Kubernetes, Graylog, Prometheus, Grafana, LaunchDarkly, Google Analytics, Search Console, BrowserStack, Puppeteer

Hobbies

Investing, Japanese, guitar, anime, travel, table tennis, cooking