

RYLEY JOHNSON

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Portland, Oregon

Dear Hiring Manager,

I'm excited to apply for the Entry-Level QA Engineer position. My passion for technology and commitment to ensuring software quality drive my interest in this role. With a diverse background that includes various jobs, I have developed a strong understanding of how businesses and customers rely on apps and web-based products to succeed. This realization has fueled my enthusiasm for enhancing user experiences and ensuring reliability in the software that people depend on daily.

My journey began with nine years as a wildland firefighter, where I learned to think critically and stay calm under pressure. Contrary to popular belief, firefighting isn't just physical labor; it requires analyzing complex data, such as weather patterns and terrain conditions, to make quick decisions that can be life-saving. During this time, I became an enthusiast for digital tools like Avenza and PDF Maps, which significantly improved our team's efficiency and sparked my interest in how technology can solve real-world problems.

After my firefighting career, I spent a few years traveling and working as a Social Media Manager. In this role, I developed a liking for leveraging automation using AI and web-based bot tools to optimize processes and enhance engagement strategies across platforms. This experience reinforced my belief in the power of technology to streamline tasks and improve user experiences, further motivating me to transition into the tech field.

I took my first formal step into QA Engineering through my education at TripleTen, where I gained a solid understanding of core testing fundamentals and the Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC). I became confident in my manual testing abilities, learning to approach tests systematically from creating test cases to logging and reporting bugs. I also worked on hands-on projects utilizing tools such as Postman, JIRA, JavaScript, Jest, Mocha, Node.js, Chrome DevTools, and WebdriverIO. A key experience was working on a project for Urban Grocer's web-app, where I identified a critical flaw in their API's cost calculation system. Fixing this bug not only improved the accuracy of their delivery costs but also saved the company from potentially significant financial losses. This experience taught me the real impact QA engineers can have on business operations.

Since completing my bootcamp, I've focused on enhancing my skills in JavaScript, TypeScript, and Playwright. I'm confident in my manual testing abilities and eager to expand my knowledge of automation techniques.

I've also taken on freelance work with Testlio, beta testing various builds of the Uber app and collaborating with an international team. This has been particularly rewarding for me, as I have a passion for enhancing user experiences and have been an Uber driver for many years. It's great to be on the other side of things, contributing to the app's quality and functionality.

Additionally, I'm currently in an externship with a talented group of QA professionals at Supernova MGU, where I'm hands-on with both manual and automated API testing for their upcoming products. Participating in daily scrum standups and working alongside experienced colleagues keeps me on my toes and continually learning as I pursue a full-time career in QA.

My diverse background, along with my enthusiasm for technology and continuous learning, has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to your team. I'm confident that my skills and drive will make me a valuable asset, and I look forward to discussing how I can support your team in efficiently identifying critical bugs and enhancing user experiences.

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