

BECKY RUSH



Inquisitive individual currently working as a Software Engineer in BBC News Visual Journalism, tinkering with code to make engaging and inclusive, interactive content.

Based in Brighton, UK
becky@rushlet.co.uk
www.rushlet.co.uk

EXPERIENCE

Visual Journalism, BBC News — Software Engineer

August 2018 - Present

I work alongside designers, developers and journalists to create interactive content, making complicated data easier to understand and engage with. Assignments range from small general interest pieces to large global data projects, translated into multiple languages and viewed by hundreds of thousands of users.

Using JavaScript (ES6), HTML, Handlebars, SASS and Webpack, I have led development on a number of projects, including the [NHS Tracker](#), the [Brexit vote lookups](#) and [How a locust becomes a plague](#).

I have worked on producing election content, such as the [2019 Poll Tracker](#), as part of which I also developed an auto-deployment strategy using AWS Lambda, Jenkins, Slack integration and Puppeteer. This has since been extended for use across multiple projects, fundamentally changing how the department can work.

I mentor junior members of the team, regularly provide code reviews for my peers, participate in writing and conducting interviews and liaise with management to assign projects amongst the development team.

As an accessibility champion, I advocate for making web content as inclusive as possible, often in short time limits and have spoken publicly about how we develop innovative, accessible content.

Visual Journalism, BBC News — Junior Software Engineer

September 2017 - June 2018

Worked remotely and part time, whilst completing my final year at university. Responsible for improving internal tooling and working on the technical backlog. Contributed to the Photoshop extension which allows designers to translate graphics into multiple languages.

Visual Journalism, BBC News — Trainee Web Developer

August 2016 - September 2017

Worked on numerous projects as a trainee, including leading development on [What has Trump said about your country](#) described as 'one of our best examples of progressive enhancement'.

Regularly gave presentations during our monthly 'Town Hall' gatherings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Data Visualisation - WAN IFRA 2020

Awarded for BBC News [How much warmer is your city?](#)

Excellence in the use of Creativity in Data - BIGGIES 2019

Awarded for the BBC News [Climate Change Calculator](#)

Wired Sussex prize for 'Best Final Year Digital Project' 2018

PROJECTS

How much warmer is your city?

Senior developer on this award winning article, translated into 27 languages, highlighting the impact of climate change on a local level.

<https://bbc.in/3aPYdrs>

I also wrote about [how we built this project](#) for the team Medium account.

Coronavirus architecture

Co-developer on this scrollytelling article which considers how the future might look for offices after the COVID-19 pandemic, which received over 2 million visits over the first 3 days of publication.

<https://bbc.in/3laoh5r>

Falling through the pay gap

Lead developer on our first scrollytelling article, an innovative new format animating and visualising over 10,000 dots to represent pay disparity.

Rushlet — Freelance Developer and Designer

Feb 2013 - Present

Worked on a variety of projects, including redesigning and developing a website for Kemp Town Carnival, and designing and building a website for author [Liz Eeles](#). Both were produced using WordPress, so clients could easily update them, but with custom code to add bespoke features requested.

University of Brighton — Student Ambassador

December 2014 - August 2018

Open Days - Answering questions from potential students and parents about my experience of the course. Speaking at both course specific and computing-wide talks given by faculty staff about the work I did whilst studying at Brighton University and on placement.

Widening Participation - Promotion of higher education to young people by running interactive sessions and delivering talks at local schools and colleges.

Student Learning Technologies - Supporting academic staff and students in their use of learning technologies in the classroom. Working with the eLearning team on classroom technology pilots and providing support for events.

EDUCATION

University of Brighton — Digital Media Development (BSc)

September 2014 - August 2018

First Class Honors Degree (BCS accredited).

Course Representative for Digital Media throughout degree - responsible for diplomatically voicing and defending concerns of students in regular meetings of module leaders.

I achieved 94% for Final Year Project [A Visual Analysis of UK Number 1s](#). For this project I scraped The Official Charts webpage using Python, then used that data to obtain further information from the Spotify API with node scripts. I analysed the resulting dataset using R to identify stories and patterns.

I built the website using HTML, SASS and JavaScript (ES6). Data visualisations, which showcase the data gathered, were created using D3.

I wrote unit tests in JavaScript and integration tests using Ruby & Cucumber. Performance (eg load time) was tested using online tools.

BHASVIC, Brighton — A-levels

September 2011 - July 2013

A-Levels: AAA | AS-Level: B | Extended Project: A*

<https://bit.ly/bbc-scrollly>

Climate Change Calculator

Co-developer on the award winning climate change calculator, featured on the 6 o'clock.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714>

Made to Measure

This prototype contextualises units of measurement in culturally relevant terms, winning a multilingual journalism hack event.

<https://rushlet.github.io/swihack/>

Noom

An online VR experience created for the NASA Space Apps Challenge. I assisted with web development and wrote the soundtrack using samples of NASA audio.

<https://bit.ly/noom-360>

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Samba Drummer

I have been a member of Barulho, a 40 piece community samba band, for 8 years, performing at events both locally and internationally - including Bestival.

Escape Room Conqueror

I relish the challenge of solving puzzles to try and escape from a locked room in 60 minutes!

Gig goer

I love watching live music, whether it's my favourite band *again* or discovering something new.

Traveller

With friends, family or flying solo, I want to see as much of the world as possible.

Hiker

I love getting out into the countryside for a good wander.