ORLA MCCARNEY

Interaction Designer

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in orlamccarney

About Me

Hi, my name is Orla McCarney. I'm a final year Interaction Design student at Belfast School of Art. I'm an enthusiastic learner, eager to enter the design world and create with like-minded people.

Work Experience

UI/UX Placement | July 2022 - July 2023

While working at Core Systems I learned a lot of valuable skills that have improved my experience design capabilities, along with the professional skills needed in any job, such as interpersonal skills and time-keeping. I worked as part of a multi-disciplinary agile team, which encouraged me to work fast and iteratively. I became more advanced in my knowledge of the Adobe Creative suite by using After Effects and InDesign to create marketing materials for the business team. I regularly presented my design ideas to managers and colleagues, both in NI and Vietnam. I was allowed 2 hours of training time a week, which allowed me to complete online courses in web accessibility standards and responsive design using Udacity. Core Systems creates technology for use in prisons, therefore, it was vital to consider accessibilty in my designs. I was given the task of creating user personas for their product Pathway. I developed these in collaboration with stakeholders. I received positive feedback and helped the company better understand their end user. I worked closely with the Product Owner and observed their process to get guidance on how to improve my storyboarding and experience design skills.

Interior Design Consultant | July 2021 - May 2022

I worked as an Interior Design consultant in Harry Corry's Cookstown store and it gave me some great insight into how to talk about design. Part of my job role was to greet customers and help them with colour pairing and the interior design of their homes. I knew the stock by heart and where certain items were displayed. Some customers came in with paint or wallpaper samples and I would find colour matches within the store's items. Sometimes I needed to help them choose another colour to add to their room scheme, which allowed for more options when it came to Harry Corry's stock. During my time in this role, a number of customers said I'd been a great help to them and my knowledge of design and colour made them feel confident in their purchases.

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Education

BDes Interaction Design in Ulster University | 2020-24

In my final year of university, I developed my own major project. I created 'Wilding' which is a mobile application for people who want to improve biodiversity in Northern Ireland by using their outdoor space. Wilding's AI function can make plant and animal habitat recommendations to meet the needs of each user's space. Learn more about this project and how I developed the prototype on my website.

St Mary's Grammar School Magherafelt | 2013- 2020

A-Levels: ACC   **GCSEs:** 9A*-B (including English and Maths)

Awards

Catalyst INVENT| 2024

My final year university project, Wilding, was shortlisted for the Green Horizons category in the Invent.

Muirdeach Cross award | 2017- 2018

The Muiredach Cross award is a faith award aimed at developing young people's leadership skills within their school, parish and community. To complete this award I conducted prayer groups, Saint Brigid's Cross making classes and painted a mural on my Religion teacher's classroom wall.

Achievement award | 2017- 2018

High grades at GCSE

Skills

- Figma
- Communication skills
- Time Management
- Inclusive Design
- Accessible Design
- Agile Teamwork
- Web Standards

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Wireframing
- Excellent ICT skills
- User Research
- Presentating
- Problem Solving
- Interpersonal skills

*References can be supplied upon request.