Rayan Ali

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Education

University of Waterloo + Wilfrid Laurier University — Waterloo, ON
Bachelor of Computer Science + Honours Bachelor of Business Administration Double Degree — *Expected 2031*

Meadowvale Secondary School — Mississauga, ON
Ontario Secondary School Diploma; SHSM ICT Red Seal; IBT Program; Top 6 Average: 96% — *Graduated 2026*

Experience

Software Engineering & Growth Intern — Sep. 2026 – Present
Magic Hour (YC W24) — *Remote*

- Shipped **Closet Agent** in one weekend, a full-stack AI wardrobe app using Next.js, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, and the Magic Hour Clothes Changer API for context-aware outfit recommendations and virtual try-on generation.
- Deployed the end-to-end workflow on Vercel with server-side API orchestration, asynchronous generation/polling, automated tests, error handling, and **3 wardrobe presets**, turning a commercial API use case into a polished public demo.

Software Engineering Intern — Feb. 2025 – Jun. 2025
Develop the Future – Apple-Funded Co-op — *Mississauga / Hybrid, ON*

- Designed and developed **LOÖK**, a SwiftUI fashion closet app with image-picker integration, custom interfaces, and local data storage across **220+ hours** of development.
- Iterated on navigation and user flows through debugging, usability testing, and mentor feedback, then delivered a live product demo to industry judges.
- Earned a **98% final evaluation** and Certificate of Achievement after taking the product from concept through development, testing, and presentation.

Co-Founder & Technical Lead — Sep. 2026 – Present
Waterloo Forge — *Waterloo, ON*

- Co-founded a **13-member** Waterloo builder community and lead technical direction across **2 product teams**, owning product scope, architecture, and build milestones.
- Accelerated game-asset creation by **75%** with a Python/Blender API/Three.js pipeline, while building a Unity geospatial game spanning **30+ campus landmarks** with GPS-anchored 3D environments and location-triggered puzzles.

Projects

UniMate – 2x Hackathon Winner | *SwiftUI, Node.js/Express, Snowflake Cortex, SQL* — 2026

- Led a **4-person team** through **4 mandatory product pivots** to build UniMate, winning **Best Use of Snowflake** and **Best Use of Backboard.io** at PivotHacks.
- Developed a voice-first planning pipeline using SwiftUI, Node.js/Express, and Snowflake Cortex to reduce brain-dump-to-plan analysis time from **28s to 4s**.
- Engineered context-aware ranking across **6+ student constraints** including deadlines, free time, conflicts, money, food, and rest, with deterministic fallbacks, Live Activities, spoken recommendations, and Chrome extension support.

Ray – Personal AI Assistant | *Python, FastAPI, Next.js, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Docker* — 2026

- Architected and developed a local-first AI assistant combining a FastAPI backend and Next.js HUD with persistent PostgreSQL/pgvector memory, **7+ specialized agents**, and REST/SSE communication.
- Designed multi-provider LLM support across **3 providers** (Gemini, Groq, Ollama) with automatic fallback and execution tracing, while enforcing tool, database, and approval boundaries through CI checks.
- Integrated local embeddings, voice components, bearer-token authentication, Dockerized services, and automated backend/frontend quality checks to keep core memory and pre-activation audio private.

Margin – EC120 Study Platform | *JavaScript, Node.js, Upstash Redis, Vercel* — 2026

- Built and launched a free full-stack study platform overnight for Laurier's **2,400-student** EC120 course, reaching **600 users in the first 8 hours** through student-led distribution.
- Engineered adaptive study workflows across **176 practice questions**, **129 flashcards**, spaced repetition, mastery scoring, and a timed 40-question mock exam with progress tracking.
- Implemented Node.js serverless APIs with Redis-backed authentication, scrypt password hashing, httpOnly sessions, rate limiting, cross-device progress sync, and anonymous product analytics.

Technical Skills

Languages: Java, Swift, Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, SQL, HTML/CSS, Racket, bash
Frameworks: SwiftUI, FastAPI, Next.js, React, Node.js, Express, Tailwind CSS, Processing
Developer Tools: Git, GitHub, Docker, Xcode, GitHub Actions, PostgreSQL, Snowflake, Vercel, VS Code, PyCharm, IntelliJ, Devin
Technologies: REST APIs, SSE, async programming, Snowflake Cortex, embeddings/vector search, LLM/agent systems
Awards/Certifications: 2x PivotHacks Winner (Snowflake, Backboard.io), App Development with Swift Associate (Apple), Azure Machine Learning, SQL Data Science, Foundations of Cybersecurity (Google)