



# Dian Kalaydzhev

## Full Stack Software Engineer

Versatile and driven professional with expertise as a skilled **full-stack engineer** and a **lecturer**, adeptly combining **teaching**, **learning**, and innovative **problem-solving** abilities. Possesses **dual citizenship** in the **United States** and **Bulgaria**, enhancing global adaptability and **cross-cultural** communication.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Senior Backend Engineer

Valtech(former Kin+Carta), Sofia/Bulgaria

12/2024 - Present

Remote

- Integrated multiple **payment systems** including **GoCardless** and **Stripe** for a **financing** app, ensuring **secure and reliable** collections.
- Reduced CI pipeline run times** by optimizing test execution, resulting in **faster deployments** and improved **developer productivity**.
- Routinely engineered and deployed **cloud-native solutions** using **AWS services**
- Wrote extensive **unit**, **integration** and **end-to-end** tests while collaborating with a **globally distributed team**, handling **high-responsibility** features.
- Mentored** junior developers and conducted regular **PR reviews** to maintain code quality and support team growth.
- Developed **proxy logic** to **enable A/B testing** in production, allowing data-driven experimentation with minimal risk.

### Full Stack Engineer

DevPunks, Turin/Italy

11/2023 – 12/2024

Remote

- Architected** a Neo4j **graph database** powering a **travel app**, creating a structure **optimized for finding the best paths** and making recommendations.
- Tackled the complex challenge of **implementing an offline mode** that provides **full app functionality** as if users were online. My involvement spans **every part of the project**, from **database design** to **backend development**, **data scraping**, **mobile development**, **web development** and **AI integration**.
- Introduced a **faster** and **more cost-efficient** solution for our **RAG** (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) and **NER** (Named Entity Recognition) processes using Groq.
- Additionally, I **led live coding sessions** where I programmed while others observed, recording them for ongoing **team learning**.

### Technical Trainer/Lecturer

SoftUni, Sofia/Bulgaria

09/2022 - Present

Sofia/Remote

- Lecturer**, imparting knowledge in various courses, including **JavaScript**, **C++**, **Python OOP**, **Python Advanced**, **Postgres**, **SQL**, and **Django**. I have successfully taught and **mentored** approximately **5000 students**.
- Taking a proactive approach to enhance the learning experience, I **introduced theory tests** after each lecture and **integrated practical exercises** to explore supplementary concepts, effectively enriching the student's understanding of the subjects.
- Links to some of the courses I teach:
  - [Python OOP](#)
  - [Python Advanced](#)
  - [Django ORM](#)
  - [Postgres](#)
  - [Django Basics](#)
  - [Django Advanced](#)
  - [C++ Fundamentals](#)



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## HONOR AWARDS

Top 100 most influential IT professionals in Bulgaria 2024  
*CarrerShow*



## SKILLS

Python

JavaScript

TypeScript

Django

React

Express

SQL

Postgres

MySQL

Azure

Heroku



## PROJECTS

### MarkIt

- A **HackAUBG 6.0 winning project**. MarkIt streamlines the often time-consuming and subjective process of **analyzing interview data** in **marketing research**. This innovative solution provides comprehensive **analyses of interviews** and data-driven recommendations, **optimizing your research workflow** and leading to more secure and **strategic decision-making**.
- [Project presentation](#)
- [Link to winning ceremony](#)

### Emotion Talk

- Emotion Talk is a personal project I **developed from scratch**, featuring a web app built with **Django REST** for the backend and **React** for the frontend. The application leverages AI and utilizes libraries like **Librosa** to accurately **recognize emotions from speech**, providing users with an interactive platform to better understand and express their emotions.
- [Link to Front-End](#)
- [Link to Back-End](#)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Lecturer

New Bulgarian University, Sofia/Bulgaria

10/2023 - Present

Sofia/On-site

- **Teaching C++** programming to groups of up to **200 students**, both **online** and **on-site**, at New Bulgarian University.
- Developed and delivered comprehensive **C++** course content, fostering an **interactive learning**.
- Introduced a **Python script** for students **solutions scraping** saving **dozens of hours**.

### Full Stack Engineer

Gentle & Rose, Varna/Bulgaria

11/2022 - 11/2023

Remote

- During my work as a Full Stack Engineer at Gentle & Rose, I successfully contributed to the development of **2 Shopify web applications**.
- "Thunder Page Speed Optimizer," significantly enhanced the SEO performance of Shopify stores. As a key accomplishment, I **independently designed and implemented a new React frontend** from scratch within a few months, resulting in the app gaining **several thousand users** within **3 months**.
- "Customizable Sliding Cart" project - Demonstrated **strong initiative** by thoroughly **refactoring the codebase** and **optimizing the development** process. **Introduced a novel method** for rendering a preview cart at the shop, leading to a substantial improvement in efficiency and user experience. By **reducing** the average save time from **15 seconds to just 2 seconds**.

### Content Developer

SoftUni, Sofia/Bulgaria

06/2022 - 11/2022

Remote

- Made **significant contributions** to the educational resources. Specifically, I have designed and developed **4 exams and 10 exercises**, which remain integral components of the curriculum, **benefiting around 500 students monthly**.
- **Developed a web application** used as an example and practice tool for students during each edition of the course.

## EDUCATION

### Bachelor's degree in Computer Science

New Bulgarian University, Sofia/Bulgaria

10/2022 - Present

Sofia/ Bulgaria

#### Courses

- Extensive range of mathematics courses, including **Discrete Math**, **Linear Algebra**, and **Analytic Geometry**. Additionally, I dedicated a year to mastering **C++** through comprehensive courses, further expanding my programming expertise and problem-solving skills.

### Professional Qualification Full Stack Engineer

Software University (SoftUni), Sofia/Bulgaria

10/2020 - 06/2022

GPA: 4

#### Courses

- **2 years** to completing the comprehensive **Full Stack Python** roadmap. Throughout my journey, I successfully completed courses in **Python OOP**, **Django**, **JavaScript**, **React**, and more, achieving the highest scores in my graduating class and ranking in the **top 1%** of the course participants.

## PROJECTS

### EnergyDrinkGPT

- A Java-based Android application that utilizes GROQ for creating custom GPT models tailored for different users. The app features energy drink scanning and image recognition capabilities.
- [Link to Repo](#)

### Quiz Master

- Quiz Master is a **Django-based web app** with vanilla **JS**, employing **PostgreSQL** for the database and incorporating **Redis** and **Celery**. It enables users to create and solve quizzes on a wide range of topics.
- [Link to app](#)

### DaDay

- A **hackathon project** with **Django REST Framework** backend and **React** frontend, serving as a social network for kids and parents. As a **full-stack engineer**, I played a pivotal role in **data processing**, **API management**, and **bug fixing**, ensuring a seamless and **user-friendly experience**. The app also offers parents **analytics** on their kid's emotions as they write privately in a diary within the application.
- [Link to the app](#)