Personal Statement

Tech Nation,

I am a long-time software developer, an internationally recognized software researcher, an author and a teacher of computer software development. My family and I hope to settle in beautiful Inverness, in the Highlands of Scotland.

I would like to continue my software development, research and writing, and to do more teaching of software development in person. Silicon Valley was the start of a software revolution around the world. But that revolution cannot remain limited to a few major cities, any more than the Industrial Revolution. For software to fulfil its potential, it must be everywhere. That means that teaching and training in software must likewise be all over the world -- the UK very much included.

I intend to continue my existing professional research. I'm sponsored by AppFolio as a Ruby programming language researcher, primarily focused on software performance. I write open-source software and publish all my research to the public. This paid research and teaching internationally allows me to offer inexpensive and/or free instruction locally as a labor of love. I've done a lot of local instruction in California at Meetups and local conferences as well as speaking at conferences in California, Tennessee, Minnesota, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and elsewhere. I plan to teach in Inverness in a more structured way.

Initially I intend to offer classes through existing organizations - I've had a favorable reception from CodeClan, who are opening an Inverness location. I'm in the process of contacting UHI's Inverness IT faculty. But I will also be starting a Meetup and generally offering classes on my own. My goal is to focus increasingly on teaching in this phase of my career.

My family has lifelong friends already long-settled in Inverness. And obviously, it's one of the most beautiful areas in the world. We have seen quite a lot of the world, including New Zealand, Malaysia, Hawaii, Mexico, Japan, and most states in the United States. The Highlands feel like a place we could settle in great contentment. My wife is a writer, teacher and artist. My children are young but are learning software development and art as well. We also have a bit of family history in Scotland, though long ago. For example, my father is named

Donald Cameron Gibbs. My paternal line came from Scotland before establishing themselves in North Carolina and then Texas.

I'm an internationally recognized developer, researcher and speaker in the Ruby programming language (see attached evidence), as well as a generalist with a long and varied software development career. I've been a Principal Engineer, an Architect, a DevOps engineer, and done software development in many different subfields -- analytics, web development, mobile, operating systems, device drivers, NoSQL storage and more. I've been working full time in software development since my college graduation in 1998. My earlier student and hobbyist work dates back to 1984. As such, my instruction is practical with a focus on the software industry and on career longevity; I can answer student questions from broad, deep experience.

I've also taught software development and specifically Ruby on Rails for Carnegie Mellon West, for their Masters of Software Engineering program. I was contacted to teach for them by Todd Sedano, then the head of that program.

I advertise, self-publish and sell my book "Rebuilding Rails," a hands-on manual of Ruby on Rails instruction for intermediate-level software developers. It has sold around 1,500 copies, which is respectable at roughly 30 pounds sterling per copy. More importantly, I've been told by a number of software developers that I've improved their work significantly. My book has been used in developer book clubs around the world and has been the subject of several presentations by others. I've taught the same content at RailsConf, one of the two pre-eminent USA Ruby conferences. I look forward to writing my next book in Scotland.

My hope is that in Inverness, my wife and I will have a long-term and stable place to continue our research, writing and artwork. Our children are currently 11, 8 and 1 - and they have found Scotland to be one of the most welcoming places we've been.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Noah Gibbs