

Hello Beyond Borders,

Your sessions at the 2023 Migration Summit was impressive and approachable, I found myself thinking I would be lucky to work with you.

I am Evan Cole, originally from the United States now living in Belgium for almost 8 years. I studied computer science and neuroscience before starting to teach programming by a lucky accident. It is now almost 7 years that I have been teaching programming, over the years I have transitioned from mostly teaching to mostly designing and researching computing education. My personal interest and experience lie in curriculum design, class management workflows and learning environments that contribute to what I call an "own-able code school" - meaning that students and fresh alumni have all the skills, experience and technology necessary to start, adapt and manage their own class.

My previous full-time job was at HackYourFuture Belgium, a free coding school in Belgium that provides English training in web development for migrants and displaced people regardless of legal status. In this role I had the opportunity to design a curriculum, class management system and learning environment from the ground up that was offline-first, research-based, open source and simple to operate. Before leaving I taught several alumni how to run a class, and over a year later they have run 3 new cohorts using the same system.

Since leaving HackYourFuture Belgium last year I have delivered a series of workshops on collaborative data science for MIT ReACT, published papers on computing education with my colleagues at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and volunteered for the Migration Summit where I helped with general planning, the storytelling sessions, and was a presenter in two sessions on research.

This year I am hoping to share my experience as a member of a mixed-background team working on educational projects with a larger reach and a longer horizon. After watching the recording of your presentation at the Summit and reading through your website I think we could be a good match.

I look forward to hearing back from you, and hopefully working together soon!

All the Best,

Evan Cole

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