MEI KOWALSKI

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Backend engineer who likes small, well-tested services and clear runbooks.
- Experience across 4 employers, most recently as Senior Backend Engineer at Orchard Commerce.
- Comfortable owning a service end to end: design, build, deploy and on-call.
- Known for clear communication with colleagues and for following work through to the end.

EDUCATION

Trinity College Dublin — **Dublin**
BSc Computer Science — *2018*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Orchard Commerce — **Amsterdam**
Senior Backend Engineer — *Jan 2026 – Present*

- Wrote integration tests and contract tests; raised coverage on the core service from 41% to 78%.
- Mentored two junior engineers through their first production releases.
- Led the move of three services from a shared monolith into independently deployed services.
- Built an internal CLI that cut new-engineer setup from a day to an hour.
- Ran on-call for the payments platform and wrote the incident runbooks the team still uses.

Orchard Commerce — **Amsterdam**
Backend Engineer — *Aug 2024 – Dec 2025*

- Built a feature-flag system so risky changes could be switched off without a deploy.
- Wrote the design doc for the new search service and ran the review with three teams.
- Paired with the security team to remove secrets from config and rotate keys automatically.
- Cut p95 response time on the checkout service from 900 ms to 240 ms by reworking queries and caching.

Brightwave Systems — **Amsterdam**
Backend Developer — *Mar 2023 – Jul 2024*

- Worked with product managers to break large features into weekly releases.
- Built and maintained REST APIs used by 55 internal teams and two mobile apps.
- Added structured logging and tracing so incidents could be traced across services in minutes.

Tidewater Apps — **Amsterdam**
Backend Developer — *Feb 2022 – Dec 2022*

- Automated database migrations in CI so releases no longer needed a maintenance window.
- Reviewed pull requests daily and kept the team style guide up to date.

PROJECTS

Open-source rate limiter library (side project)

- Planned and delivered it alongside day-to-day work, with a written plan and agreed success measures.
- Shared the results with the wider team and kept the documentation up to date.

Hackathon: real-time bus tracker

- Planned and delivered it alongside day-to-day work, with a written plan and agreed success measures.
- Shared the results with the wider team and kept the documentation up to date.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages & tools: MySQL 8.0, C#
General: Git, Docker, Linux, REST APIs, CI/CD
Languages: English (Fluent), German (B2)

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
- Scrum Fundamentals

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Organiser of a monthly running club with around 30 members.
- Mentor for a school careers programme, helping students with CVs and mock interviews.

- Member of a community choir.

REFERENCE

Ola Fischer
Head of Operations, Quayside Digital
Contact: ola@example.com