

Finn P (Faiz Patel)

QA Technical Lead | 9+ Years | Fintech & Enterprise

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior QA leader and automation engineer with 9+ years delivering enterprise-grade quality strategies across fintech and financial services. Proven ability to design and scale test automation frameworks, own the full QA lifecycle, and mentor engineering teams. Experienced in driving shift-left quality practices within Agile/DevOps environments and partnering with engineering leadership to embed quality from day one. Background in payments systems (TCS BaNCS, Realex), regulatory compliance testing, and cross-platform automation. Holds an MSc in Computer Science with core modules in .NET/C# and programming languages. Now seeking a Technical Lead role to own and scale QA strategy at a growth-stage fintech.

CORE SKILLS

Leadership & Strategy	QA strategy ownership, team mentoring, shift-left testing, test planning, QA metrics
Programming & Scripting	Java, JavaScript, C# / .NET (MSc), XML
Automation Frameworks	Selenium WebDriver, TestNG, Cucumber (BDD/Gherkin), RestAssured
CI/CD & DevOps	Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, Bitbucket, Git
API Testing	Postman, RestAssured, Insomnia
Cloud & Infra (Exposure)	AWS/GCP environments via CI pipelines; cloud-hosted test infrastructure
Platforms	Web, mobile (BrowserStack, SeeTest), backend/API
Tools & Management	JIRA/Xray, Confluence, HP ALM, Star Team, SQL/Oracle, UNIX
Methodologies	Agile (Scrum/Kanban), Waterfall, BDD, TDD, UAT, Regression, SIT

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

QA Automation Consultant (Staff Engineer) Barclays Plc

Manchester, UK | Aug 2022 - Present

- Led QA automation strategy for a major digital banking programme, owning the end-to-end test automation lifecycle from framework design through to production release - functioning as the de facto QA tech lead within the delivery team.
- Architected and implemented a scalable BDD test framework using Java, Selenium WebDriver, and Cucumber/Gherkin, cutting regression cycle time and eliminating key manual testing bottlenecks.
- Defined and drove automation best practices across the team; mentored and upskilled junior and mid-level engineers on framework design, scripting standards, and CI/CD integration.
- Integrated automated test suites into GitLab CI/CD pipelines, enabling continuous quality gates at each stage of the delivery pipeline and improving release confidence.
- Led cross-platform testing coverage - web (Selenium), mobile (SeeTest, BrowserStack), and API (Insomnia, RestAssured) - ensuring quality across all customer-facing surfaces.
- Acted as the primary QA point of contact for product and engineering leadership, contributing to sprint planning, risk-based test strategy, and defect triage sessions.
- Delivered API testing frameworks for backend service integration, ensuring reliability across microservices in a high-availability banking environment.

Career Break | Jan 2021 - Jul 2022

Relocated to UK; completed MSc Cybersecurity at Staffordshire University (distinction); freelance mobile app development projects.

Associate Software Consultant (QA & Automation) Capita Software

India / UK | Apr 2018 - Dec 2020

- Spearheaded continuous improvement initiatives to ensure seamless data integration across 20+ sub-organisations with diverse legacy systems, centralising operations in the primary CRM.
- Designed and executed SIT testing strategies including test plan creation, script development, and defect management using Star Team and HP ALM.
- Reduced data refresh turnaround time from 15 days to 7 days by implementing automation-driven efficiencies, directly improving release frequency and software quality.
- Validated new backend Shell scripts for compatibility with existing schedulers; provided strategic guidance to third-party vendors on batch scheduler maintenance.
- Ensured financial data integrity by resolving HMRC ledger discrepancies related to change requests.
- Managed build promotions across 8 environments, ensuring stability and consistency across the deployment pipeline.

Associate Consultant - QA & Test Automation Capgemini India Pvt. Ltd.

India | Aug 2017 - Apr 2018

- Developed automation frameworks using Selenium (TDD & BDD), streamlining test execution for regulatory reporting systems subject to EMIR compliance.
- Designed high-level and low-level test scenarios in JIRA, conducted requirement mapping, RTM preparation, and test planning using HP ALM.
- Executed scripts for regulatory report generation (intra-day and EOD) and monitored DTCC portal uploads for compliance.
- Conducted regression testing using Selenium, generating weekly and monthly quality trend reports for senior stakeholders.

Test Engineer Capita ITPS

India | May 2015 - Aug 2017

- Conducted functional and integration testing on TCS BaNCS and Realex payment systems, ensuring reliable financial transactions and regulatory compliance - directly relevant to payments infrastructure.
- Assessed and validated the Realex payment gateway end-to-end, covering backend systems and frontend extranet portals.
- Developed test scripts for portfolio rebalancing features and created comprehensive test plans, estimations, and daily reports aligned to business requirements.

EDUCATION

MSc Cybersecurity

Staffordshire University | Specialisation: Network Security, Penetration Testing

MSc Computer Science

University of Pune | Core: Networks, RDBMS, C# / .NET, Programming Languages, Theory of Computation

BSc Computer Science

University of Pune

INTERESTS

Volunteer - Do it for the Hood (2018–20) | Guest Lecturer, home university (2018–19) | Freelance app developer | Weekend hiker | Amateur guitarist