NIKITA ELAKOV

Software Engineer (Go) · ex-QA Automation Lead

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SUMMARY

Engineer who built QA from the ground up — and then crossed over to write the code. 5+ years in fintech (Plata, Salmon, Vivid Money, beeline): from designing release processes and leading QA teams to developing Go services in production, passing code review alongside senior engineers. Deep understanding of system internals from both sides — what breaks, why, and how to build it right. Stack: Go, Kafka, Camunda, MongoDB, Java, Kotlin. Domain: investments, KYC, payments, origination.

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer (Go) · Growth *Dec 2025 – Present*
Plata Card · Remote

- Backend Go development in the Growth domain within the Investment product: Origination (user onboarding), gifts service, marketing mechanics, social features, and promotional campaigns. Stack: Go, Kafka, Camunda, MongoDB.
- Implementing business logic for growth-related investment features within the production codebase alongside the core engineering team.
- Participating in code reviews; deep domain and system knowledge gained from previously leading QA in the same codebase accelerates delivery from day one.

QA Team Lead · Investments (promoted from Senior QA) *May 2024 – Dec 2025 · 1 yr 8 mo*
Plata Card · Mexico

- Joined as Senior QA Automation Engineer and promoted to QA Team Lead within 3 months; led QA function for the Investment domain end-to-end: processes, coverage strategy, quality gates, and release readiness across multiple teams.
- Built test infrastructure from scratch for two Investment domain teams: E2E and integration test suites covering database, Kafka, and Camunda workflows.
- Grew automated test coverage to 400+ tests across Portfolio (buy/sell operations, deposits/withdrawals) and Origination (4 KYC session types, Kafka integration, Camunda workflows).
- Developed a Go service for test user generation and KYC session mocking, eliminating dependency on external systems in test environments.
- Implemented test API endpoints for direct database interaction — passed code review from the core development team, working within production codebase standards.
- Defined and maintained quality gates across backend services; collaborated with engineering and product on risk-based test planning and defect triage.

Senior QA Automation Engineer *May 2023 – May 2024 · 1 yr*
Salmon (Fintech Holdings Ltd) · Manila, Philippines

- Established and owned the Release Train QA process across three teams (Payment Gateway, Billing, Decision-Making System / Origination) — improved release predictability, reduced testing time, and strengthened dev-QA coordination.
- Organized QA processes from scratch within the teams: coverage strategy, test planning, quality gates, inter-team communication with developers and stakeholders.
- Built a Kotlin/Spring service for DB interaction from automated tests, significantly reducing test setup time for both AQA and manual testers.
- Integrated JUnit 5 into the QA Core Framework leveraging DI, extensions, converters, and resolvers — improved scalability and test management across the framework.

Software Development Engineer in Test *Jul 2022 – May 2023 · 11 mo*
beeline Russia · Remote

- Order Management team — order processing system integrating all Beeline products and external partners.
- Co-built a new Java testing infrastructure from scratch, replacing Karate BDD Framework.
- Wrote 200+ automated tests for the Shopping Cart service; migrated microservices to a new cluster, reducing test run time ~10%.
- Refactored unit tests in Go microservices, integrating Allure-Go for pipeline-level reporting.

QA Lead (promoted from Full Stack QA Engineer)*Mar 2021 – Jul 2022 · 1 yr 5 mo*
Vivid Money · Berlin, Germany

- Joined as Full Stack QA Engineer; promoted to QA Lead within 10 months based on technical impact and cross-team contributions.
- Led QA for the Origination team — client registration, KYC, and anti-fraud flows across four EU markets: Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.
- Maintained and scaled a test case suite of 500+ scenarios covering country-specific onboarding flows, regulatory requirements, and risk procedures across four EU markets.
- Optimized the coverage matrix, eliminating redundant scenarios and significantly reducing mobile regression run time — critical for sustaining weekly release cadence.
- Ensured QA readiness for weekly production releases: coordinated regression cycles, sign-off process, and cross-layer coverage (mobile iOS/Android, backend, API).
- Introduced regular QA retrospectives to systematically improve team processes and test efficiency.

Full Stack QA Automation Engineer (Part-time Contractor)*Apr 2021 – Jul 2022 · 1 yr 4 mo*
Moeco · California, USA (Remote · US timezone)

- Part-time contractor engagement alongside primary employment, working US timezone hours without overlap.
- Manual and automation testing for IoT-connected logistics platform across web, API, and data layers.

QA Automation Engineer (Backend)*Oct 2020 – Mar 2021 · 6 mo*
Sberbank · Saint Petersburg, Russia

- Team Reliability — Payments & Transfers Dept, processing 15M+ payments/day.
- Achieved 90% test automation coverage; managed 500+ test cases with BDD Cucumber framework.
- Database testing with CFT and Oracle.

Full Stack QA Engineer*Sep 2019 – Oct 2020 · 1 yr 2 mo*
Home Credit Russia · Saint Petersburg, Russia

- QA Core Team — banking marketplace covering web, iOS, Android, API, and backend testing.
- API testing, DB verification, UI testing with prototypes; log analysis via Kibana and GrayLog.

Lecturer & Mentor*2020 – 2022 · 2 yrs*
GeekBrains · Remote

- Taught QA automation courses; mentored junior engineers transitioning into test engineering.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Go · Java · Kotlin · SQL
Backend / Frameworks: Spring · JUnit 5 · REST Assured · Retrofit · Allure
Messaging / Workflow: Kafka · Camunda
QA / Testing:API Testing · Database Testing · Mobile (Appium) · Web (Selenide/Selenoid) · BDD (Cucumber)
Infrastructure: Docker · Kubernetes · CI/CD · ELK Stack · GrayLog · Kibana
Databases: PostgreSQL · MongoDB · Oracle · CFT
Soft Skills: Team Leadership · QA Process Design · Stakeholder Reporting · Cross-team Collaboration · Mentoring

CERTIFICATIONS

Java Advanced QA Automation Engineer · QA.GURU*Aug 31, 2023*
QA Automation Engineer · QA.GURU*May 25, 2022*
Kotlin Backend Developer — Professional · OTUS Online Education*Mar 5, 2025*
Architectures and Design Patterns in Java · GeekBrains*Dec 11, 2022*

Linux. Administration of Clients · GeekBrains*Feb 1, 2021*
SQL — Data Retrieval · Netologia*2020*

EDUCATION

Bachelor's — Finance & Financial Management*2017 – 2021*
Saint Petersburg State Institute of Technology

Bachelor's — Physical Education & Coaching (Ice Hockey)*2011 – 2015*
Siberian State University of Physical Culture and Sport

Professional Retraining Diploma — Software Testing Specialist*Aug 2019 – Nov 2020*
Netologia-Group · 255 hours · Apostille certified

Diploma thesis: Automation testing of a complex banking service with DB and API interaction — grade: Excellent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

"Nick is a very proactive engineer with a growth mindset, always ready to bring results to the team."

Michael Oznobkin — Head of Development, beeline (direct manager)

"Nikita is one of the very best among all people I have ever worked with — unparalleled analytic and problem-solving abilities, never refuses to help."

Sergey Ok — Engineering Leader (direct manager)

"Nick was one of the very best teammates I've ever had the privilege of working with."

Ilia Astafev — CTO, Moeco (direct manager)

"Nikita displayed a high level of AQA expertise: Java, Kubernetes, CI/CD, ELK. His ability to identify and address issues efficiently contributed greatly to our projects."

Tural Aliev — Test Manager, beeline (senior colleague)

"Strong QA skills, knows many different approaches and solutions. Excellent empathy for the project and product."

Mike Portnov — Tech Lead, Salmon (teammate)

"Really skilled in QA automation with a great understanding of Java and Kotlin. Always quick to find and fix bugs, making our software run smoother."

Andrey Kiprushin — Automation QA Engineer (Java/Kotlin), Salmon (teammate)

Full recommendations available on LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/nikitaelakov