



For

First year

First year to *first* *internship.*

Month by month, from the first week of
college to the first offer.

Made with engineers who **work at**
Microsoft and Atlassian and **teach at**
NYC.





Before you follow a plan, you should know who made it.

Made with engineers who work at Microsoft and Atlassian *and teach at NYC.*



Swapnil

Forward Deployed Engineer, Microsoft

Works on Microsoft Teams. Teaches Full Stack Engineering at NYC.



Akshay

Senior Software Engineer, Atlassian

Worked on UPI payments at Jio Platforms. Teaches DSA at NYC.

They speak for themselves, not for their employers.



Our students are already *on this path.*

NYC is for first and second-year students. Live classes, five days a week.



YEAR ONE

Build every week

PROJECTS

Projects with live links

AFTER THE
COURSE

Internship preparation

They were where you are. *Now they are hired.*

Students who learnt with our team at Sheryians Coding School.

➤ Now at **Zithara**

“My college had no real placement scene, so I took the chance. I only knew HTML and CSS. Every concept got clearer as the course went on.”



Shivangi Gupta

Maulana Azad College of Engineering and Technology,
Patna

[LinkedIn](#) ↗

➤ Now at **Compile Infy**

“Before, I knew only basic HTML and JavaScript and had no projects. I went on to receive about five job offers.”



Charan Buchannola

IIIT Jabalpur

[LinkedIn](#) ↗

➤ Now at **SAP Labs**

“I kept giving interviews and getting rejected. The cohort covered everything from DSA to aptitude. I got my offer letter on its very last day.”



Anurag Bansal

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

[LinkedIn](#) ↗



Now, let's start *the plan.*

Eight short sections. Read them in order.

- 01 Why first internships come off-campus
- 02 Year one: months 1–12
- 03 Year two: months 13–24
- 04 Where to apply
- 05 The referral message
- 06 Your 10-week internship
- 07 7 mistakes to avoid
- 08 Your application tracker

Most first internships *come off-campus.*

1st year

2nd year

3rd year

4th year

Companies hire interns

The gap

Placement cell

- **Companies hire interns from 2nd year**
Microsoft Engage, Google STEP, startups, and hundreds of remote roles take second-years.
- **Your placement cell starts in 3rd year**
The gap before it is yours to use.

For off-campus roles, they check



Your GitHub



Your projects



Your test score

~~Your college~~

The numbers

62%

of interns get a full-time offer

42%

of graduates are employable

2

projects live online: the bar for a first internship

1

referral beats 200 applications sent without one

Sources: NACE 2025; Mercer Mettl India Graduate Skill Index 2025.

Year one: *learn to build.*

MONTHS
1–2



Learn one language

C++ or Python, the basics. Build your first web page with AI and put it online.

MONTHS
3–4



Build a full app

Frontend, backend and a database. Use Git every day.

MONTHS
5–6



Start DSA

Follow a 100-hour plan. Build a second project. Join one hackathon.

MONTHS
7–8



Build for a real user

A club, a shop or a friend. You get real feedback.

MONTHS
9–10



Start open source

Get your first pull request merged. Clean up your GitHub profile.

MONTHS
11–12



Résumé, version 1

First applications

One page, three projects, with links. Apply to 10 small startups for the summer.

By month 12

2

projects live online

150

DSA problems done

1

merged open-source
pull request



At NYC: five live classes a week, with a build day every Friday. Every project goes online and is reviewed by an engineer.



We teach all of this, live.

Talk to an advisor at notyourcollege.com

Year two: *apply for internships.*

MONTHS
13–14



Big-tech student programmes

Microsoft Engage

Google STEP

Amazon ML Summer School

Deadlines fall between Oct and Mar.

MONTHS
15–16



Timed tests

A timed mock test every week. Reach 300 DSA problems. Build a third project with AI.

MONTHS
17–18



Referrals

Send 10 messages a month to engineers, with your live project link.

MONTHS
19–20



Interviews

A mock interview every week. Practise explaining your projects in depth.

MONTHS
21–22



Offers

Internship starts

Your summer internship starts. Treat it like a 10-week interview.

MONTHS
23–24



Return offer or referral

Ask for a return offer or a referral. Then update everything.

Checkpoint, month 18

3

live projects

300

problems

20

applications
sent

2

referrals asked



At NYC: internship preparation covers applications, referrals, timed tests and mock interviews, with one mentor.

5 places to apply, *in this order.*

1 Startups

LinkedIn

Wellfound

Internshala

The smallest companies say yes fastest. Your first internship is what gets you the second.

2 Big-tech student programmes

Engage

STEP

Amazon ML Summer School

Flipkart Grid

Uber HackTag

Put their dates in your calendar.

3 Open-source programmes

GSoC

LFX

MLH Fellowship

Outreachy

Paid, remote and well respected.

4 Referrals from anyone who works anywhere

Seniors

NYC community

LinkedIn

One live link, one ask.

5 Your placement cell, last

Useful in third year. Not a plan in first year.

The referral message, *in 4 lines.*

COPY THIS. FILL IN THE BRACKETS.

Hi **[name]**, I am a 2nd-year CSE student at **[college]**.

I built **[project]** (**[live link]**) — **[one number]**.

I saw **[company]** has a **[role]** opening. Could you refer me, or tell me what you would look for?

Thank you either way. **[Résumé attached]**

Who to message, 10 a month

- 1 Engineers 1–3 years in, same college if possible
- 2 People who posted about hiring
- 3 NYC mentors and alumni
- 4 Anyone whose project you actually used

What to expect

10

messages a month, from month 17

2–3

replies is normal. One referral is a win.

1

week, then one follow-up, then stop

Your 10-week internship, *week by week.*

1

Get something small merged Week 1

A pull request in week one, even a fix to the docs. It sets your reputation.

2

Own one thing Weeks 2–8

Ask for a feature with your name on it. Share your progress more often than feels needed.

3

Demo and ask Weeks 9–10

Demo to the team. Ask your manager for a return offer or a referral, in writing.

DO EVERY WEEK

- ✓ Write a 5-line update every Friday
- ✓ Ask questions with what you tried
- ✓ Pair with someone senior once a week
- ✓ Keep a log for your résumé

NEVER

- ✗ Go silent when stuck
- ✗ Push code you have not run
- ✗ Miss a standup, the daily team meeting
- ✗ Leave without asking for the next step

7 mistakes that *delay a first internship.*

✕ 1. "I will apply in third year"

✓ Companies are hiring second-years now. Third year is late.

✕ 2. ~~Certificates instead of projects~~

✓ A Coursera certificate alone rarely gets anyone hired. A live project link often does.

✕ 3. ~~Applying only on-campus~~

✓ Your college gets 20 companies. The internet has 20,000.

✕ 4. ~~No GitHub activity~~

✓ A green activity graph shows you build. An empty one shows you do not.

✕ 5. ~~Waiting for a reply~~

✓ Apply to 30. Follow up once. Keep building while you wait.

✕ 6. ~~Taking the first unpaid "internship"~~

✓ Unpaid, with no mentor and no code, is not an internship. Say no.

✕ 7. ~~Doing it alone~~

✓ Join a team, a hackathon or a community. People help you get in.

Your application tracker, *in 7 columns.*

COLUMN	WHAT TO WRITE
Company	Name and role
Source	LinkedIn, referral or the company site
Date	The day you applied
Stage	Applied Online coding test Interview Offer
Contact	Who referred you, or who to follow up with
Next	Follow-up date, and one line on what to do
Notes	What they asked, and what to fix

How to use it

30

rows before you start
to worry

1

review every Sunday,
20 minutes

1

thing to fix per
rejection. Then move
on.

We teach this whole plan, *live.*



nyc · course

Covers this plan

WE TEACH THIS



Software Engineering + AI + Internship preparation

Software Engineering + AI builds the projects. Internship preparation handles applications, referrals, timed tests and mock interviews, with one mentor.



Live classes



Engineer reviews

For: **Software engineer intern (SDE)**

Talk to an advisor

See the course → notyourcollege.com



Guide by the NYC team, 2026. Programme names and dates change every year; verify on each company's careers site. NYC is not affiliated with the companies named. NYC does not guarantee employment or selection.