SKILLS · FORWARD DEPLOYED ENGINEERING

CAMPUS TRACK · FOUNDATIONAL

Your CS programme teaches the fundamentals. This teaches the part it can't.

For students who can already code and have not yet had to build for someone else's mess. Run inside a university partnership, one cohort per term.

DURATION	COHORT	FORMAT	COST
12 weeks, one term	**20 per campus**	**Evenings + project time**	**No cost to students**

WHO THIS IS FOR

- One semester of real programming, not only coursework exercises
- Comfortable reading someone else's codebase cold
- No prior client or industry experience required

WHAT YOU LEAVE WITH

- A shipped capstone and a case study for your portfolio
- A completion record co-signed by the sponsoring track lead
- A line to IIDA's contributor track and its enterprise partners

CURRICULUM

- Reading a workflow: turning a stakeholder conversation into a build plan
- Shipping against a real specification that changes mid-project, on purpose
- Applied AI systems — retrieval, agents and evaluation, run against real data
- Production discipline: version control, code review, deployment, handover docs
- Talking to a non-technical stakeholder without losing the technical detail

> Capstone. *A working prototype against a real, anonymised case from the IIDA problem bank — not a toy dataset, and not a simulated client.*

WHY THIS PAYS

Two skills, rarely one person

Most engineers can build. Few can sit inside a client's ambiguity and ship against it under someone else's constraints.

The market already prices it

Palantir built its early growth on this role, and enterprises now try to hire for it directly rather than keep contracting it out.

Demand is structural

Every enterprise adopting AI hits the same wall — a demo that works and nobody who can get it running against real systems.