

# HSING-WEI (CYNWELL) LIAO

+61 478 530 054 | [cynwellliao.20011203@gmail.com](mailto:cynwellliao.20011203@gmail.com) | [linkedin.com/in/Cynwell-Liao](https://linkedin.com/in/Cynwell-Liao) | [github.com/Cynwell-Liao](https://github.com/Cynwell-Liao)

## Profile

**Graduate/Junior Software Engineer** in Melbourne, completing a Master of IT (expected Aug 2026). Built and shipped production backend systems and **event-driven pipelines** (webhooks, queues/outbox, retries, observability). Strong in **Java/Spring Boot**, **Python/Django** and **TypeScript/Node.js**; hands-on **Cloud + IaC** (GCP, AWS, Docker, CI/CD). Interested in backend roles and LLM-enabled systems where reliability and performance matter.

## Technical Skills

**Languages:** Java, Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL

**Backend:** Spring Boot, Spring Security, Django, Django REST framework, Flask, Node.js

**Frontend:** React, Next.js, HTML, CSS

**Cloud/DevOps:** GCP (Cloud Run, Pub/Sub), AWS (EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda), Terraform, Docker, Git, Linux

**Datastores:** PostgreSQL/PostGIS/pgvector, MySQL, Firestore, Redis, Elasticsearch

**Testing/Observability:** JUnit 5, Mockito, Testcontainers, OpenTelemetry, Prometheus/Micrometer, LangSmith  
**ML/LLMs:** Ollama, Gemini, LangChain/LangGraph, Hugging Face Transformers

## Education

### The University of Melbourne

Melbourne, VIC, Australia

*Master of Information Technology (Computing)*

Jul. 2024 – Aug. 2026

- Mobile Computing Systems Programming – ParkPie (**Best Project of the Year**, formally commended by Prof. Vassilis Kostakos for Outstanding Idea and Implementation)
- Led cross-functional teams in 2025 FEIT Hackathon (zoomies, Finalists) and 2024 FEIT Hackathon (levelfield.ai, Finalists), coordinating task delegation, design decisions, and demos under 3-day deadlines

### Harvard University

Cambridge, MA, USA

*Short-term Exchange, Project Management*

Jul. 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Awarded Engineering Exchange Scholarship issued by FEIT, University of Melbourne

### Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

*Bachelor of Business (International Business)*

Jul. 2020 – Aug. 2024

- QUT Executive Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence issued by Executive Dean, Jul. 2024
- Recipient of Ministry of Education (Taiwan) Study Abroad Scholarship
- Dual bachelor's degree program with Bachelor of Business Administration at FCU (GPA 4.0)

## Experience

### AI Software Engineer Intern

Nov. 2025 – Present

Melbourne, VIC, Australia

*Startupbootcamp*

- Collaborated in a 5-person **Agile** team following **SDLC**, pairing with the engineering manager on backend, delivering Next.js Server Actions and webhook pipelines to synchronise Firestore and Airtable with idempotency
- Engineered an **event-driven RAG pipeline** with Gemini processing **100+ startup datasets**, applying **staged LLM routing** to balance cost/performance and JSON repair strategies to guarantee structured output
- Proactively identified a **dual-write race condition** across **2 datastores** and proposed the **Transactional outbox pattern** with atomic enqueue, lease-based claiming, exponential backoff, and dead-letter queues
- Independently proposed and implemented a latency optimisation that reduced founder submission time by ~66% (3x boost) by **decoupling Airtable writes** via Next.js `after()` and async background processors
- Went beyond assigned scope to introduce **3 operational safety controls** (opportunistic job draining, manual replay endpoints, and Vercel cron recovery), ensuring **zero data-loss** resilience during low-traffic periods
- Partnered with non-technical team members to build React-based Founder View (**1,000+ startups**), Investor Dashboard (**100+ investors**), and Admin Console for managing AI-generated portfolio data pipelines

### Data Analytics Teaching Assistant

Oct. 2025 – Present

*TibaMe*

Remote

- Mentored 10+ learners per cohort in data analytics and visualisation (Power BI) and SQL (Microsoft SQL Server), providing one-on-one guidance to accelerate comprehension of complex topics
- Identified recurring learner pain points and developed targeted troubleshooting walkthroughs for data wrangling, dashboard design, and analytics workflows

### Front of House Staff

Nov. 2023 – Jul. 2024

*Jackpot Dining*

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

- Coordinated with a team of 10+ staff across front-of-house and kitchen during peak service periods, building strong communication and collaborative problem-solving skills under pressure

## Projects

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**ParkPie Landing Website** | *TypeScript, Next.js 16, React 19, Tailwind CSS, Vitest* | [Live](#) Nov. 2025 – Present

- Architected a high-performance marketing platform using Next.js 16 and React 19, achieving a **100% Lighthouse performance score** via zero-layout-shift font loading, edge-cached content, and semantic HTML
- Engineered a cost-effective “Headless CMS” solution using Airtable and Incremental Static Regeneration (ISR), enabling non-technical teams to manage content while serving pages with **sub-millisecond latency**
- Secured public infrastructure with a **defence-in-depth** strategy, combining IP-based fixed-window rate limiting, honeypot fields, and strict Zod schema validation to eliminate automated abuse vectors
- **Mitigated critical React2Shell exposure (CVE-2025-55182)** by orchestrating a zero-downtime upgrade to Next.js 16 and enforcing stability via automated regression testing
- Orchestrated automated SEO pipelines that dynamically generate sitemaps, RSS feeds, and Open Graph metadata from CMS content, ensuring real-time indexability without manual deployments

**Cheap.Guide App Backend** | *Java, Spring Boot, MySQL, Terraform, GCP* | [Website](#) Jul. 2025 – Present

- Served as Principal Backend Engineer & Solution Architect in a 4-person cross-functional team, delivering a Spring Boot backend with REST APIs for auth, posts, geospatial search, AI moderation, and notifications
- Integrated Firebase Auth (JWT) with role-based access control (RBAC), enforcing authorisation across **30+ protected endpoints** serving **3 user roles**
- Researched and proposed replacing a Redis sidecar with Caffeine in-memory caching, eliminating **~\$400/year** in infrastructure overhead while achieving **sub-millisecond data retrieval**
- Set up async workflows with Google Pub/Sub (handling **16 concurrent threads**) and provisioned GCP infrastructure via Terraform, reducing deployment time with verifiable Infrastructure-as-Code
- Established **CI/CD** with GitHub Actions utilising multi-stage Docker builds (reducing image size by **~40%**) and ensured production observability with OpenTelemetry tracing and structured logging

**ParkPie App Backend** | *Python, Django, PostgreSQL, LangChain, Docker, AWS* | [GitHub](#) Jul. 2025 – Present

- Led backend and AI development as AI & Backend Lead in a 6-person **Agile** co-founding team, driving **SDLC** from design to deployment for a **geospatial-first** Django + **PostGIS** backend with optimised spatial queries
- Pioneered an agentic AI pipeline with LangGraph and LangChain to orchestrate multi-step reasoning for parking sign interpretation, innovating a hybrid cloud/local inference approach with Google Gemini and Ollama
- Deployed a scalable vector database with **pgvector** in PostgreSQL 17 to power semantic search for Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) on parking regulations
- Configured **CI/CD** with Docker Compose and GitHub Actions, enforcing **Test-driven development (TDD)** and quality gates with strict type-checking (mypy), linting (ruff), and automated test suites
- Added comprehensive observability with LangSmith for LLM tracing and OpenTelemetry + the LGTM stack (Loki, Grafana, Tempo, Mimir) to monitor complex agentic workflows and API performance

**Social Media Analytics System** | *Python, Flask, Kubernetes, Elasticsearch, Redis* | [Demo](#) Apr. 2025 – May 2025

- Spearheaded a 5-person team to deliver a cloud-native analytics system for the 2025 Australian federal election, coordinating sprint planning, code reviews, and cross-module integration (University of Melbourne)
- Developed a scalable Reddit harvester/processor with Fission, ingesting and normalising **168,000+ posts** in real-time while managing API rate limits
- Built a comment-tree collector to enrich sentiment and engagement analysis; exposed data via a REST API backed by Elasticsearch
- Created interactive Jupyter Notebook visualisations for filtering and trend analysis; presented findings to 400+ students in class

## Licenses & Certifications

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**AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate**

Jan. 2026 – Jan. 2029

*Skills: Amazon Web Services (AWS), Solution Architecture*

**Google IT Automation with Python Specialization Certificate**

Jan. 2025

*Skills: Python, Linux, Git, Software Testing, CI/CD, Google Cloud Platform (GCP)*