

Dear Pinterest Apprenticeship Recruiting Team,

I'm writing to express my enthusiasm for the Product Management Apprenticeship program, where my non-traditional journey from professional music to product management aligns perfectly with Pinterest's mission to "bring everyone the inspiration to create a life they love."

My Unique Journey: From Music to Product

After completing my Bachelor of Music in Performance at Berklee College of Music, I discovered that while music taught me creativity and innovation, the path to financial sustainability required exploring my other passion: the intersection of math, patterns, and human behavior. This realization led me to transition into tech through intensive coding bootcamp training, but what truly captivated me was how product management combines creative problem-solving with analytical thinking—much like composing music, but for user experiences.

Putting "Pinner's First" Through User Research

My commitment to user-centered thinking mirrors Pinterest's core value of putting Pinner's first. While building Capture, a privacy-first social platform, I conducted comprehensive user research including 5 in-depth interviews and surveys with 10 beta users. This research revealed critical insights: 70% of users were frustrated with irrelevant content discovery, and 90% wanted transparent recommendation explanations. These findings directly shaped our product roadmap, prioritizing discovery transparency and user control—principles that align with Pinterest's healthier personalization approach.

Aiming for Extraordinary Through Cross-Functional Leadership

Pinterest's value of "aiming for extraordinary" resonates with my approach to building products. I've grown Capture from a 2-person founding team to a structured 4-person cross-functional team, implementing Agile processes with biweekly sprints, daily standups, and Jira project management. I mentor 2 engineering interns while facilitating design-engineering alignment sessions, demonstrating my ability to "act as one" across disciplines. My experience mirrors Pinterest's collaborative culture, where product decisions emerge from collective expertise rather than individual authority.

Winning and Learning Through Iteration

My product management journey embodies Pinterest's "win or learn" philosophy. When our initial recommendation algorithm indicated poor user engagement, I pivoted to implement RICE prioritization, resulting in 4 high-impact features ranked by user value and technical feasibility. Whether successful or not, each product decision provides valuable learning that informs the next iteration—a mindset essential for continuous improvement.

Technical Foundation Meets Product Strategy

My full-stack development background (React Native, TypeScript, Cloudflare Workers) provides the technical literacy to collaborate effectively with engineering teams while focusing on user outcomes. I understand both the possibilities and constraints of technical implementation, enabling more informed product decisions and realistic roadmap planning.

Pinterest Connection and Vision

As a longtime Pinterest user who discovers tattoo, clothing, and culture inspiration through the platform, I appreciate Pinterest's unique visual discovery experience. I'm particularly drawn to the similarity content features and shopping suggestions—areas where my work on multi-modal content analysis (visual + text embeddings) and privacy-preserving recommendations could contribute to Pinterest's mission of inspired discovery.

The apprenticeship program's emphasis on mentorship and cross-functional collaboration excites me because it provides the structured learning environment where my non-traditional background becomes a strength rather than a limitation. I'm eager to bring fresh perspectives from music and collaborative product development while learning from Pinterest's experienced product leaders.

I'm pursuing Aha! Product Management and finished the Atlassian Agile Project Management certifications to formalize my self-taught PM knowledge, demonstrating my commitment to continuous learning—a quality Pinterest values in apprentices who must grow quickly in their roles.

Pinterest's apprenticeship program represents the perfect opportunity to transform my passion for user-centered innovation into a career building products that inspire millions. I'm excited about the possibility of contributing to Pinterest's mission while developing into the product manager I aspire to become.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to discussing how my unique perspective and proven ability to put users first can contribute to Pinterest's continued success.

Sincerely,
Jai Dhiman