Personal Development Plan (PDP)

Student Name: [Your Name]
Student ID: [Your ID]
Degree: BSc (Hons) in Information Technology
Year: 2
Semester: 2

1. Self-Assessment

I started my self-assessment by reflecting on my academic journey, projects, and personal qualities. To structure this process, I used a SWOT analysis and a skills audit. This allowed me to clearly identify areas where I am confident and capable, as well as those where I need to improve.

Strengths: I have strong technical skills in Java, MERN stack development, and Kotlin. Through projects like Police360 and FurniHouse, I developed hands-on coding and debugging skills. I am also creative in UI/UX design, with experience in tools like Figma and Canva. I adapt quickly to new technologies and enjoy problem-solving, particularly in team environments where I can collaborate and share ideas.

Weaknesses: Despite my technical strengths, I lack industry exposure. I have not yet completed an internship, which limits my practical understanding of workplace dynamics. Time management is another weakness, especially when multiple coursework deadlines overlap. I also face anxiety during public speaking, which affects my confidence when presenting. In group projects, I sometimes avoid leadership roles, preferring to contribute individually rather than guide a team.

Opportunities: My university offers workshops, career fairs, and certifications like AWS Academy and Scrum, which I can use to grow professionally. The IT sector in Sri Lanka and worldwide is expanding, creating opportunities in areas like software engineering, cloud computing, and data analysis. Engaging with LinkedIn and GitHub also provides networking opportunities and a platform to showcase my skills.

Threats: The IT field evolves rapidly, and failing to keep up with new technologies could hold me back. Competition is strong among peers who already have internships or professional certifications. This motivates me to work harder to stand out.

2. Goal Setting

Based on my self-assessment, I set clear goals using the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). These goals address my weaknesses while building on my strengths. I divided them into short-term, medium-term, and long-term categories.

Timeline	Goals
Short-term (6–12 months)	Improve public speaking by joining debate club/Toastmasters and giving 3 presentations; complete AW
Medium-term (1–3 years)	Secure 6-month internship by mid-2026; lead 2 academic projects; complete 2 online data analysis cou
Long-term (3–5 years)	Start full-time career as full-stack developer or IT project manager by 2029; complete AWS Solutions A

3. Action Planning

To achieve these goals, I created a structured action plan with clear steps, resources, and timelines.

Public Speaking: I will join the university debate club in February 2025 and volunteer for presentations. I will practice regularly by watching TED Talks and recording myself to evaluate progress. Feedback from lecturers and peers will help me improve.

AWS Certification: I will enroll in AWS Academy by August 2025, dedicate at least 5 hours weekly to practice, and sit for the exam by December 2025.

Internship: I will update my CV and LinkedIn by January 2026, apply to at least 15 internships, and attend career fairs. Networking with alumni will also provide mentorship opportunities.

Leadership: I will take leadership roles in projects such as Police360, delegate tasks effectively, and participate in extracurricular activities like event organizing to build confidence.

Professional Branding: I will maintain my GitHub by uploading work monthly, publish two LinkedIn blogs annually, and grow my network to 500+ connections.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

To stay on track, I will adopt a structured monitoring and evaluation strategy. I will review progress monthly using Notion dashboards and Trello boards, where each goal will be tracked with milestones. I will keep reflective journals each semester to assess what strategies worked and what needs adjustment. Feedback from lecturers and peers will be collected after each presentation or leadership task. If a goal falls behind by more than two months, I will adjust timelines and methods to stay realistic. Success will be measured not only by certifications or projects but also by improvements in communication and leadership.

5. Personal Insight & Motivation

My motivation comes from a passion to solve real-world problems through IT. Working on projects like Police360 showed me how technology can improve public services, while FurniHouse gave me space to experiment with design and user experience. These experiences strengthened my belief that IT can create meaningful change in society. The fast pace of the industry excites me because it challenges me to keep learning. I see weaknesses like public speaking anxiety as opportunities to push myself beyond my comfort zone. My ultimate vision is to become not only a skilled developer but also a leader who contributes to Sri Lanka's digital growth.

6. Presentation & Communication

I structured this PDP to be clear and professional. Each section flows logically from self-assessment to goals, planning, monitoring, and motivation. I used bullet points and tables where appropriate for clarity and readability. Visuals such as SWOT diagrams, SMART goal tables, and Gantt charts will also be included to strengthen presentation. Language has been kept clear, with proper grammar and spelling. This shows my ability to communicate ideas effectively, which is an important professional skill.

7. Use of Tools & Evidence

To support this PDP, I have included evidence of progress and professional development. My LinkedIn profile has been updated with my projects, skills, and goals. I also prepared an updated CV highlighting my technical expertise and teamwork experience. I have enrolled in AWS Academy and Coursera, where I am progressing towards certifications such as AWS Cloud Practitioner. My

GitHub repository serves as evidence of my coding practice and project contributions. I also plan to add a skills audit chart and project screenshots as additional proof of development. Together, these tools demonstrate my commitment to personal and professional growth.