Student User Manual

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> Lambda School is always evolving to give every student the best opportunity at a new job. You should expect changes while you're here. As such, anything below is subject to change. If you ever have concerns or feedback about how a change affects you, please reach out to Student Success.

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Start Now

The most important thing we tell new Lambda School Students is: **start now.**

You have a fixed number of days between now and your completion date. There's a good chance that the next several months will swing the trajectory of your career more than any others. Your time at Lambda School will be some of the most highly leveraged hours of your life. Now is the time to put your head down and work.

System Requirements

Recommended operating systems (in descending order): macOS, Windows 10, Ubuntu. For UX, macOS is heavily encouraged. For iOS, Mojave 10.14 is required.

Other versions of Windows work but Students should anticipate occasional environment issues. Chromebooks are *not* supported, as coursework involves installing and running software locally.

Pre-Course

Start on your pre-course work *immediately*. The precourse material is the jumping off point for the beginning of the course. While we will review the concepts covered during precourse, a strong understanding of the precourse work is essential to your overall success as they create the foundation in which you'll build everything else.

Continual practice is the best way to improve your coding skills. Every spare moment you have should be spent coding. Repetition is beneficial and pays enormous dividends. For some courses, we offer a test-out option, enabling you to skip the pre-course class.

Precourse work must be complete by two Thursdays prior to your class start date at noon PST. In some cases, we may ask you to complete the material sooner.

Income Share Agreements

Instead of paying tuition upfront, many Lambda School Students choose to sign an Income Share Agreement (ISA).

Income Share Agreements are not a form of debt, nor are they a loan. An ISA is a legally binding agreement representing a responsibility to pay Lambda School a portion of future income. ISAs allow us to provide an education that usually costs tens of thousands of dollars for no upfront cost.

Students may only have one signed and active Income Share Agreement at a time, including from other organizations.

Please read the ISA FAQ below for more information.

Note that for our international Students, ISA specifics will vary, and you should read your own ISA for exact details.

Upfront Tuition

Some Students prefer to pay their tuition upfront instead of using an ISA. Upfront tuition is $20,000. Please email financialservices@lambdaschool.com for more information.

(NOTE: Please do not use financialservices@lambdaschool.com for any ISA broken links. For those, please email admissions@lambdaschool.com. Thank you.)

Payment Refund Policy

We offer a refund policy for people who leave Lambda School:

If you decide to withdraw in the first 4 sprints, your ISA will be canceled, or your tuition or any installment payments will be returned in full.

After completion of 4 sprints, you become responsible for 40% of the tuition.

Each sprint thereafter you become responsible for another 10% of the tuition

After 10 sprints, you are responsible for tuition in full

Keeping in Touch with Lambda

As well as being in contact with your Team Leads and instructors, you can keep up with general Lambda School developments by following Lambda School on **Twitter** and by signing up for our **newsletter**.

Class Logistics

Slack

Slack is an online communication tool used widely in the tech industry. For Lambda School, it is the most important and frequent way we communicate with Students. If you've never used Slack before, get to know it well. Nearly every company in Silicon Valley uses it, and it's rapidly becoming a point of competence across software engineering teams.

Once you've filled out your confirmation form, we will add you the Student Slack workspace and assign you to a few main channels depending on your class and group.

Example: You are a new Student joining the WEB18 class (Full Stack Web, Class 18), your main Slack channels will be *#WEB18* and *#WEB18_help*. You will be assigned to a smaller group with your Project Manager. For example, if your Project Manager is Alicia Jackson, that Slack channel might be named *#WEB18_aj*.

When setting your Slack avatar, use a professional profile photo, just as you would for a job. Also, use your first and last name on your profile. The #WEB#_help channel is the first place you should post if you are confused or stuck. A TL or Instructor will jump in and help you work through the challenge at hand.

When it is time for a lecture, a Zoom link will be posted in your class channel with the @channel tag, which should send you both desktop and push notifications. Make sure to follow the schedule and be on time for those lectures, as your class may not wait for you.

Lambda School instructors have a white Lambda School logo over a red background and TAs have black Lambda School logo over a white background next to their usernames. Other Lambda School staff have white Lambda School logo over a black background next to their usernames.

There are also several unofficial location-specific Slack channels (e.g. #Austin, #London, #Seattle, or #Virginia) you can join. In the past, Students have organized meetups in their area. To browse all public channels, click *Channels* in the Slack sidebar.

Typing a message in Slack that includes "@here" or "@channel" notifies everyone in that channel. This sends an alert to their desktop, or, in many cases, their personal cellphones. **As such, please use "@here" and "@channel" sparingly in your cohort or local channels, and not in general channels.** Thanks for helping us keep Slack usable!

Slack Etiquette

Everything we do at Lambda is designed to prepare you for your future career. Slack is the primary method of communication while at Lambda. How you approach interaction with other Students and staff will set you on a trajectory for future correspondence with prospective companies.

Below are a few things to consider when using Slack

Do

Add to your profile:

 A picture of yourself (professionally appropriate)

 Your first and last name to your profile

 Your Course and Section to your profile

Be considerate of others when contributing to a channel

Use your section's main channel for content related purposes

Use Threads

Use the Help channel for getting support

Use your class channel

Don't

Use profanity

Have a profile picture that is not of you

Overuse @channel (this can be disruptive to channel members

Use channels for posts that are not aligned with the channel's intended purpose

Establish channels that disrupt the learning environment

Use channels for solicitations

Share inappropriate content

Create inappropriate emojis

Zoom

Zoom is an online remote meeting service. While at Lambda School you'll use Zoom to receive lectures, pair program, work on your group projects, and receive 1:1 support from the Instruction team, and more!

Be sure to download Zoom and set up your free account before the first day of class.

Students should have their cameras turned on whenever appropriate, during all live Zoom meetings.

Example: Daily Guided Projects, Orientations, Assemblies, Standup and Team Meetings.

Be considerate of others when presenting and interacting on Zoom. On occasion, a well-intentioned joke or sarcastic comment may be received differently than intended. Lambda Students come from all walks of life — often with very diverse backgrounds. We want everyone to feel safe and included during all aspects of the program.

Sections and Groups

Each Lambda School start date is comprised of new sections beginning across different courses. The iteration of your course will be titled with a course abbreviation and the current iteration (ex. WEB22). Students are placed in groups typically with 7-8 other Students and assigned one Team Lead. You will collaborate closely with your Team Lead and Students in your group as well as the other Students in your section

Each section will typically rotate between **Instructors** on a unit basis. Instructors deliver the bulk of the content via Guided Project lectures.

Within Slack, you'll be able to connect with Students across other classes. While it's generally not advisable to try to get to know *every* Lambda School Student, we do encourage you to get to know your cohort and classmates well. These are the individuals you'll be spending a significant amount of time with and will eventually become your professional network.

Schedule

By the first day of class, you'll be invited to your class Google calendar. This calendar contains all of the important dates, lecture times, and general class schedule. While the calendar is subject to change, you should view and follow it closely.

Training Kit

By the first day of class you will also receive your login credentials for the Training Kit:
https://learn.lambdaschool.com/

The introduction pages are publicly viewable. You'll be prompted for your login credentials when you explore the curriculum. Please familiarize yourself with the Training Kit prior to the Student Orientation.

To situate yourself with the Training Kit, it will help to know that each Course we offer has a common abbreviation:

AND for Android Development

DS for <u>Data Science</u>

iOS for <u>iOS Development</u>

UX for <u>User Experience Design</u>

WEB for <u>Full Stack Web Development</u>

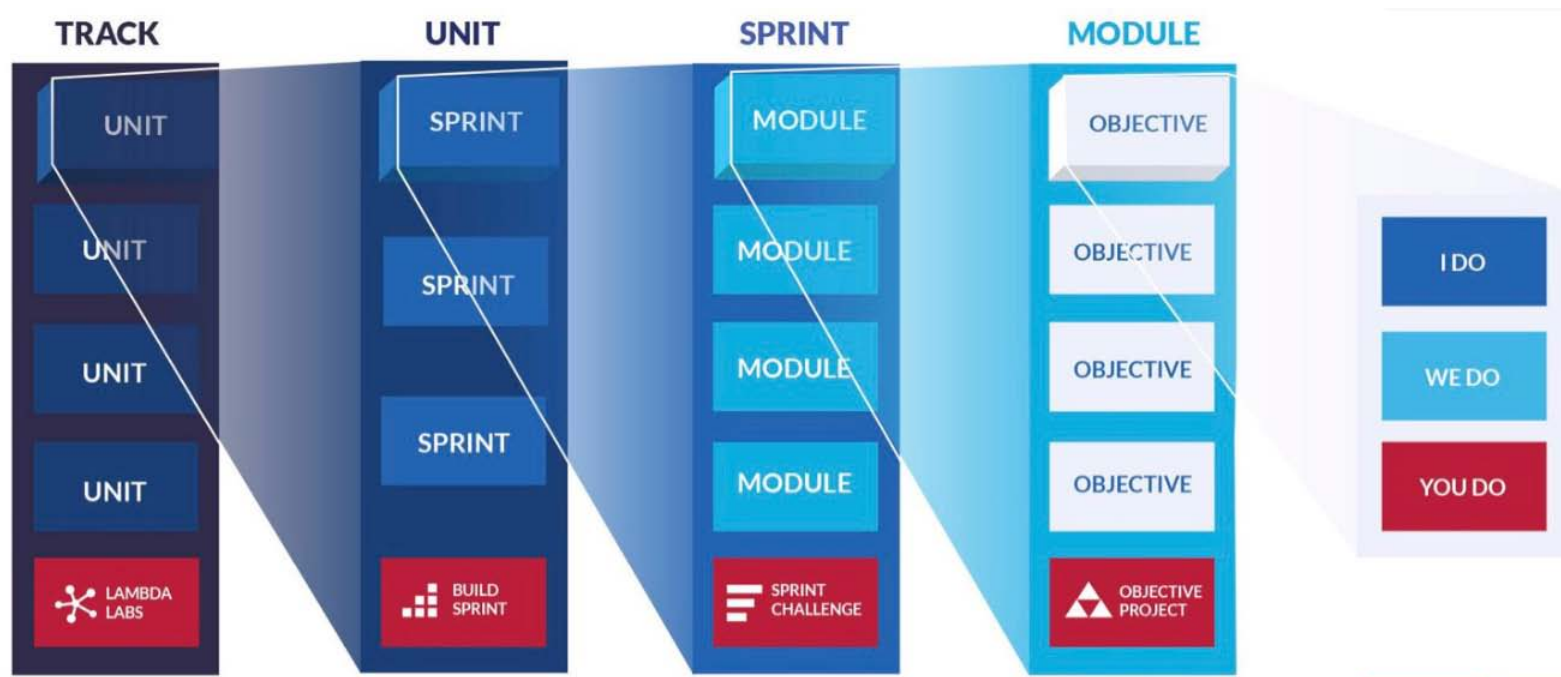Each Course has a "core" *Track* of curriculum. This core Track is made up of four *Units*.

Each Unit is comprised of four *Sprints*. In part-time courses, each Sprint is covered during thee evening over two weeks. In full-time classes, these Sprints are one week long, Mondays through Fridays. In most Courses, the fourth Sprint of every Unit will be a **Build** Sprint.

Each Sprint is made up of four *Modules* and culminates with a *Sprint Challenge.*

Every Module is made up of Guided Projects and Project Time.

Each Sprint Challenge combines the objectives from every module so that you can demonstrate your mastery of those objectives.

Once you have successfully obtained the objectives within a core track, you will proceed onwards to Labs, and then Computer Science or Ancillary curriculum (UX and DS have slightly different curriculum after the core track and Labs).

Progress Requirements

Unit Progression

Students must demonstrate mastery over all sprints including Build Sprints, then pass an assessment before progressing to the next unit.

If more than one Sprint is not passed in a Unit, the student will Flex to the appropriate Unit to repeat the content.

If a student is unable to pass the Unit assessment after two attempts, the student may be withdrawn. If a Student does not pass the first Unit a second time and is withdrawn, they will be considered "within the first 4 Sprints" and upon withdrawal, their ISA will be cancelled. After the first Unit, academic withdrawals will include ISA pro-ration per the details in the ISA FAQ below.

Attendance

Attendance is **required**. We monitor attendance closely during video lectures and from time to time we'll check in on your group or pair programming work as well. Attendance is critical to success in the program.

Students may miss no more than eight hours per month and are required to connect with a Project Manager and a Student Success team member regarding missing hours. Missing more than eight hours per month may result in deferment to a later class or removal from the program, determined on a case by case basis. Let a Team Lead know if you'll miss class for any reason.

We understand life happens and emergencies arise, however be sure to connect with your Lambda School points of contacts.

If you live outside of the US and take a US-based class, it's taught live on the Pacific time so it's important to think about how you will adjust according to your time zone. You will also only get US holidays off. If you take an EU-based class, it's taught live on GMT, and you will only get EU holidays off.

Hiatus Policy

Full-Time and Part-Time Students in good standing with attendance and participation, who have an unexpected event that will interfere with honoring their commitment to the class schedule (e.g. divorce, familial bereavement, new baby, severe illness, etc.) may be granted a hiatus from Lambda School courses.

Students may be permitted to leave on hiatus for up to 3 sprints maximum. Students are required to contact Student Success prior to a hiatus leave to make arrangements for a return date and regular check-ins during the leave.

Students are allowed a total of only one hiatus leave. Additional leaves may be granted if approved by Student Success.

Only in the most extraordinary of circumstances will approval of hiatus longer than 3 sprints be considered.

Coding Challenges

During the course, you'll have a series of coding challenges. Challenges are a way for us to gauge your progress through the course material, identify areas you may be struggling, and assign individual help if needed.

Prepare for coding challenges thoroughly by reviewing material and reworking through your assignments. Remember, these check-ins are for your benefit so we can determine what you know and what you don't know

well yet. Don't let them scare you. Rather think of them as a friend who graciously points out areas you should work on so you can become better. If you work diligently on your coursework, the exams are nothing to worry about.

If we determine that you are falling behind in the course, we'll have a conversation with you about the best path forward in terms of your learning. Please do not reach out to us asking how you're doing in the course, if you can join another class, or have an alternative schedule. We'll reach out to you if we think there is something to be addressed.

Code of Conduct

Lambda School is challenging by design. We move quickly and each day builds upon the previous. To ensure your success, we've outlined several guiding principles to follow.

Participate - we expect each Student to actively participate in the course by attending all lectures, having an online presence during course hours, engaging with instructors and Team Leads, and collaborating with other Students.

Complete All Coursework - The best way to get better at coding is more coding. We expect Students to complete each and every assignment given as part of the course, as the concepts learned in one assignment are a building block needed for future assignments. Even if you know a concept, repetition is key to solidifying the foundation of your knowledge.

Ask for Help - If you feel lost or are stuck on an assignment, it's your responsibility to reach out to your instructors, teaching assistants, or fellow Students for help. We can only provide support if let us know. We may not always give you the answer, but we will provide you with the tools to derive the answer on your own.

Integrity - Asking for help and researching online is a key part of learning, however, you cannot use code you did not write. Do not shortcut your education by cheating. Ask for clues, not code when seeking help. If you put in the effort, you will reap the reward.

Plagiarism - If a Student is caught copying code from staff or other Students, or submitting work that is not their own; a member of Student Success will evaluate the situation and based on findings, the Student may be withdrawn from Lambda School.

Respect - We're fortunate Lambda School Students and staff have extremely diverse background. You can contribute to creating a positive experience for everyone by being respectful in your communications (sarcasm translates poorly via text and online chat), and keeping politics confined to the #politics channel in Slack. Do your part to make Lambda School a welcoming place to learn by encouraging your fellow classmates, offering support, and listening to others.

Professionalism - Lambda School is a professional environment. We expect Students to act accordingly. Punctuality, timeliness, accountability, and open communication are crucial, not only for your success here at Lambda School, but also in your careers afterward. The professional expectations we require of our Students are the same your future employers will expect of you. A good rule of thumb is: if you wouldn't do or say a

thing in front of an employer or colleagues at your job, don't do it here at Lambda School. Additionally, professionalism includes protecting internal intellectual property.

No Harassment Policy - Lambda School is a place to learn. We aim to create an environment of mutual trust and the absence of intimidation, oppression, and exploitation. Students and staff should be able to work and learn in a safe, yet stimulating atmosphere. As such, Lambda School will not tolerate any form of harassment, verbal or physical conduct, designed to threaten or intimidate others, which includes but is not limited to the following:

1.

Verbal harassment includes comments that are offensive or unwelcome regarding a person's nationality, origin, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, sexual identity, marital status, age, body, disability or appearance, including epithets, slurs and negative stereotyping.

2.

Nonverbal harassment includes distribution, display or discussion of any written or graphic material that ridicules, denigrates, insults, belittles or shows hostility, aversion or disrespect toward an individual or group because of national origin, race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, appearance, disability, sexual identity, marital or other protected status.

3.

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

As a Student, you are welcome to request contact information when needed (for example, to gain verification of your enrollment by Staff, or to add fellow Students to a Google spreadsheet.)Lambda School will not tolerate, however, the dissemination of PII outside of Lambda School, or for purposes other than directly related to the successful completion of coursework.As a Student, you may become privy to details about other Student's lives.

We do not tolerate the use, gathering or dissemination of such information in any way which could be construed as unethical, or in bad faith.

What is Personally Identifiable Information (PII)?

PII is any information which can be used to distinguish, trace or de-anonymize and individual's identity, such as medical, educational, employment, financial or background history.

Examples include: name, e-mail, phone number(s), addressees or residence, social security number, date or place of birth, group affiliations, maiden or mother's maiden name, et. al.

Communication - You are expected to regularly communicate with your Team Leads regarding daily progress. Failure to remain in contact with Team Leads, Instructors, Student Success, or any other staff, may result in being withdrawn from the program.

Slack Communication - Lambda School is made up of Students from all parts of the world.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in deferral or removal from the program. If removed from the program for Code of Conduct reasons, your income share agreement or tuition refund will be prorated as

described in the ISA FAQ section of the User Manual.

If you think there is something is preventing you from being successful, communicate with your instructors and Project Manager, or reach out directly to Kevin Morrill (kevin@lambdaschool.com) the Director of Student Success, or Caleb Hicks (caleb@lambdaschool.com) the VP of Learning.

FrontDesk

Please read the directions on how to use FrontDesk carefully - or else your ticket might not go through. Thank you.

Using FrontDesk

If you did not get a response within 24 hours on a weekday, then you most likely have not submitted the ticket correctly or it went down the wrong pipeline, due to an automation. If 24 hours has passed and you have not received a response yet, go ahead and DM Nina Hahn to see if your ticket has gone through. Thank you!

GitHub Student Developer Pack (ONLY APPLICABLE to Students who started Day One)

If you already started Day One of class in your section, then you should have access to your Dashboard, making you eligible to take advantage of the GitHub Student Developer Pack.

1) Visit your Dashboard and click on the GitHub Student Developer Pack link. Do not do anything else in that page.

2) Visit https://github.com/settings/billing.

At the bottom of this page, you should see that you have a coupon applied and when that coupon will expire.

(Example of how the coupon should look: COUPON $7.00 off for 2 years until July 18, 2021.)

If there is no coupon on there, you will need to click on the link in your Dashboard once more and then check again.

NOTE: *If you still do not see the coupon being applied to your account in the billing link, you can use a new unique link that FrontDesk can generate for you. However, this can only be done if your Dashboard's unique link is not working or if your Dashboard is not working in general. So please be sure to submit a ticket to FrontDesk in great detail about this. Thank you.*

Once you click on the new link or original link in your Dashboard, check the billing page again. If it says that it has been applied, then move onto the next step.

3) Visit education.github.com/pack/offers.

You should be able to see that you can get your benefits there.

This is only the case if the coupon has been applied to your account, which is why we need you to check the billing page first. Do not try to reapply or else that will mess up the system.

NOTE: *If, for some reason, you cannot access the benefits and are using Chrome, then please try using Firefox, Opera, or Safari instead. Highly recommend using Firefox for this though.*

Loaner Equipment

If your equipment (computer, webcam, etc) becomes unusable during your time at Lambda School and you are unable to obtain a replacement or get it fixed, please submit a request through the FrontDesk and write down all of the reasons as to why each option from the link below is not viable for you:

https://www.notion.so/lambdaschool/Alternative-Options-060a560102a342f7b3c2e6c2fdeaeae3

1.

Loaner equipment are paid for by the Perpetual Access Fund and there is very limited inventory. In order to be considered for a loaner, you must be in compliance with the Code of Conduct, attendance, and participation policies *(see above)*. In addition to compliance, you need to have a record of meaningful progress with the curriculum.

2.

If your equipment loan request is approved, it may take several weeks for you to actually receive your equipment, due to high demand and limited inventory. Shipping will also be prioritized based on several factors, including how far along in the program you are.

3.

Students who have not yet started class may be deferred to a later class if equipment is needed and not available.

4.

All loaner equipment is thoroughly tested before being shipped to students. While we understand the problems can occur, we are only able to replace the equipment twice as urgent priorities if technical problems arise while the equipment is in your care. (*For more information about this, please look at #7 and the Loaner Replacement Process link below*.)

5.

If your equipment loan request is approved and you do not have access to a computer and cannot find any temporary solutions while waiting to receive it, please reach out to FrontDesk again to be put on hiatus or be deferred to a later class.

6.

For loaner laptops, we only provide refurbished 2012 Macbook Pro (12 inch; 8GB).

7.

In cases that your equipment malfunctions and you have gone through two replacements sent by us, you can ship back the equipment and request another loaner. For the third replacement and after, the loaner replacement can take 30 days to process before being shipped to you. Please look to have a backup solution in case of loaner equipment malfunction prior sending back your equipment.

8.

Please google on how to troubleshoot or fix any issues that you are having with the equipment. Thank you!

For more information about the loaner replacement process, please check out this page:

Loaner Replacement & Returning Process

Mindset for Success

Reps, Reps, and More Reps

Learning complex concepts, such as programming, is largely a matter of repetition. Like learning to shoot a basketball, the more you practice, the better you'll get. Intelligent instructors and outstanding curriculum can help, but nothing will help you improve your coding skills more than repetition. The most important thing you'll do in this class is code, code, code!

It's Not Automatic

The first time you encounter a new concept in programming, you may feel completely overwhelmed. That's okay! As you continue to work through the material, you'll develop points of clarity, and eventually, after repetition and practice, you will find what you once thought was super complex is now an easy to understand concept.

You'll need to become comfortable with the idea of working through something while being confused. The software industry is vast. New concepts and tools arise regularly and it is impossible to keep up to date and understand everything that is going on all the time. If things are murky, keep going! With practice, blurred concepts become more clear.

Remember, you get what you put in. To leverage the most out of your time at Lambda School, you have to put in the time and effort. If you simply go through the motions of the course and do the bare minimum, it's improbable you'll come out the other side with magical programming knowledge powers.

The Million Dollar Moment

It's extremely common for Students to ask us to change the curriculum, loosen the requirements, switch to another class, or *anything* to make what they're learning a little easier. Most of the time that's not the solution; **what you actually need are more reps**.

A natural reaction to frustration is finding something external to blame. If you find yourself struggling with a concept or assignment and you think the requirements are too tough or the curriculum isn't teaching you the things you need to be a successful programmer, nine times out of ten the best solution is to keep on keeping on and power through.

We call this the "*million dollar moment*," because what you decide to do in this situation can easily swing your future net worth millions of dollars one way or the other. This is the time to put up your dukes and fight harder

than you've ever fought before, *not* to give up and force your circumstances to change.

It's totally normal to have several "*million dollar moments*" during the course of Lambda School. You're not stupid, you're not behind, and you shouldn't be discouraged because you don't see the other Students having these moments. At some point in the course, every Student will encounter their own "*million dollar moment*," you just might not be aware of their struggle.

Predictors of Success and Failure

Through our extensive experience teaching people to program, we've identified that the number one predictor of success or failure is whether you think of yourself as someone who is at the mercy of circumstance.

If you attempt programming and quit when the material gets challenging, you'll likely fail. Instead, if you persevere and continue to wade through the unknown, you're probability of success skyrockets.

Kiss of Death

Over time we've come to know something as the "kiss of death." That is when a student decides they're falling behind, and they stop paying attention to the class schedule and go at their own pace. We have *never* seen this work out. Not once. If you feel like you're falling behind, you should continue working with the class, and catch up on any missed concepts in your spare time, even if the lectures and current coursework are very confusing. What you'll generally find is that over time the concepts you were confused about become clearer as you work through other things, and you'll be caught up. Remember, it's normal to be confused; you just need more reps.

People

During your time at Lambda School, you'll interact with a variety of folks.

Instructors are highly-skilled engineer-teacher hybrids that will be delivering the bulk of your lectures. Our instructors have a hand in developing and refining the curriculum, writing tests, creating assignments, and running code reviews. Think of them as *professors*.

Team Leads (TL) are former Lambda School Students who can help you troubleshoot basic problems, walk through code challenges, and provide general help and support. Our TLs have the unique advantage of both having successfully tackled the curriculum and knowing what it's like to be a Student. TLs are capable of answering 90% of the questions you might have about the course and curriculum.

Experts are external folks that we invite in from time to time to lecture on a specific niche topic.

There are many other people who work at Lambda School, largely in the background in Admissions, Operations, Hiring, Marketing, and more. From time to time you may interact with others via Slack. Know that if someone reaches out to you from Lambda School, that we're all here to help you succeed.

Hiring

We strongly encourage Students to wait until the end of the Ancillary Unit (Comp. Sci., or UX electives) to apply for jobs.

One of the things that sets Lambda School apart from other bootcamps is our focus on more intensive technical concepts, whether this be computer science for Web, iOS, Android, and DS Students, or coding for UX Students. You will be a much more competitive candidate after you complete the full Lambda School coursework, feel better prepared for technical interviews, and will have access to a broader range of jobs, including some that may be higher-paying than what you would qualify for earlier in the program.

While we will do our best to work with you if you do get hired early, we have seen that it can be extremely challenging for most Students to balance a new job with continuing their learning. Our hope is for you to get the benefits of the full Lambda coursework AND the job of your dreams, and we've seen the best way for Students to do this is to finish Lambda School before interviewing for roles.

If you are eager to take your next steps, we understand, and we're excited for you, too! There are lots of things that you can do early on in Lambda School to prepare for your search. Networking is one of the most valuable things you can do with your time. 80% of jobs are found through networking, so researching your field, doing informational interviews, going to events, participating in hackathons, etc. are all excellent ways for you to prepare for your career post-Lambda without getting in the way of your ability to complete your coursework. Getting all of your career materials (your resume, LinkedIn, portfolio, blog, social media, interview skills, etc.) polished and ready is another key activity you can do now to move the needle on your search. By doing these things, you'll be ready to hit the ground running the second you finish the core Lambda School coursework, and you'll be able to take full advantage of Lambda X until you find a job.

We will do everything we can to prepare you to land a sweet job after graduating from Lambda School. However it's important you know upfront that it's on you to actually get the job. We can't submit job applications or write cover letters for you. We can't take phone calls or interviews on your behalf. That's on you.

We have dedicated staff who are there to advise you on how to polish your resume so it reflects your new skills, ensure your Linkedin profile is top notch, present yourself professionally, approach phone screens and technical interviews, and negotiate. Our Career Services staff are there for you to access as needed, though you should not *rely* on them. They're here to guide and direct you in your job preparedness journey and offer resume and profile corrections when needed.

Generally speaking, you should set aside **three to six months for your job search**. How quickly you land a job depends on how many jobs you apply to per day, the type of role, and the salary you desire. On average, you should expect to apply to, at minimum, **five** jobs a day once you have your job materials in order.

Some people take up to six months to find the absolute perfect, sky-high salaried job. However, you're likely to land a junior job faster. We'll support you in your endeavors, though a good rule of thumb is to do everything you can to simply get your foot in the door. Getting hired becomes immensely easier once you have even a little bit of industry experience.

Once you land a job, we hope you'll pay it forward by helping others in your class get hired. We become stronger if we work together as a network.

Lambda for Life

As a Lambda School alumnus/alumna, we hope you'll keep in touch. Periodically, we'll invite you to events,

gatherings, info sessions and more. Lambda School doesn't end when you graduate. In fact, in many ways, that's where it all *really* begins. Get to know your classmates, Students in other classes, and the Lambda School staff. Do what you can to help them, and they'll do the same for you. That's what being part of the Lambda School network is all about!

Frequently Asked Questions: ISAs

How much does Lambda School cost?

Most Lambda School Students don't pay upfront tuition.

Instead, they pay for Lambda School using an Income Share Agreement, or ISA.

Under our ISA you agree to pay 17% of your post-Lambda School income with 24 monthly payments, but only when you're making more than $4,166 per month (that is, $50k per year).

For example, if you get a job paying $60,000/year, you're earning $5,000 per month. 17% of $5,000 is $850, so you pay $850 that month for your ISA.

You make 17% payments on your income every month until you've made 24 monthly payments, that is for 2 years worth of payments.

If your income ever drops below $4,166 per month you don't make a payment that month.

Our ISA is also capped at a maximum of $30k. You'll never pay more than $30k under any circumstances.

You have 5 years after your last day at Lambda School to complete the 24 monthly payments. If 5 years go by, and you haven't made enough money to trigger 24 monthly payments, the ISA is cancelled. **International Students please note: Your terms will be different, and you should read your ISA carefully.**

Can I see an example United States ISA?

Yes, you can see a template we use here (PDF).

How much do I pay in total?

Your ISA payments are based on your income so it depends:

If your income never reaches the $4,166 monthly threshold, you'll pay 0.

If you're making really good money (congratulations!), you could pay up to the $30,000 cap.

You'll never pay more than $30,000.

Anything you pay is spread out over 24 separate monthly payments.

What are the interest rates for the ISA?

ISAs are not a loan so they have no interest.

Is the repayment amount on an ISA calculated before or after taxes?

The 17% is a percentage of your gross income, i.e. before taxes.

When do my ISA repayments start?

Your ISA goes into effect on your last day at Lambda School. It lasts up to 5 years from that date. You don't pay a penny until you're earning $50,000 a year (that's $4,166 a month).

How do you verify my income?

We partner with Leif, a company that handles all of the collecting, reporting, and other administration related to our ISAs.

Leif will contact you to remind you to report your income, but it's important to understand that the ISA contract obligates you to self-report your income and job status.

If you're accepted into Lambda School, you'll go through a signup process with Leif. They connect your bank account and you give them access to view your tax returns for the duration of the ISA.

These are serious requests, and we don't make them lightly. We offer the opportunity to study at Lambda School to thousands of Students for no money upfront. We need to ensure that payments are made correctly on our Students' ISAs.

What if I file a joint tax return?

Leif may ask to verify your income with your IRS tax return but we're only interested in your individual income. If you can provide documentation of your spouse's income, it won't be included.

The ISA contract specifically says this:

"Earned Income" includes all income reported on a joint income tax return, minus, to the extent documented to our satisfaction, any income earned solely by your spouse.

How do I report my income to Leif? How can I see how many payments I have left?

Leif handles all of this on their site where you create your account. You sign up with Leif as soon as you're admitted into Lambda School.

You'll report your income and your job status through your account on their site. They also provide customer support to answer more detailed questions.

You can reach them at https://leif.org/login or if you have any questions, you can contact them at support@leif.org.

Which banks work with Leif/What if I don't have a bank account?

Leif supports thousands of banks. You can <u>see more information on supported banks here.</u>

If you don't have a bank account we recommend you open one with Charles Schwab or Ally.

Do I have to connect my "main" bank account?

Whatever bank account you use to receive your income is the account you must connect to Leif.

Will Lambda School help me find a job?

Yes. **Lambda School is for people who want to get a job** in the technology industry.

We offer an integrated program called Lambda CE to help you do just that. Lambda CE is a full-time program designed to help Students in the time between the day they finish the Lambda School curriculum and the day they start their new job.

It follows the same structure and schedule as every Lambda School class including Daily Objectives, Weekly Sprints, and a TL to guide and support you. Lambda Next is a program designed to get you in to a new job as quickly as possible.

Our Outcomes team is like your own job-search personal trainer. We tell you what you need to do, coach you to get better at it, and are here to support you 100% of the way. But it's on you to follow the plan and do the actual work.

Career Coach Endorsement

The Partnerships team at Lambda establishes relationships with companies to provide opportunities/leads to Students that have gone through the endorsement process.

A Career Coach will work with you to be come endorsed by the time you complete the curriculum. The steps to become endorsed are but not limited to the quality of your resume, LinkedIn, portfolio, artifacts, and ongoing code contributions.

Endorsement is required in order to have access to opportunities sourced by Lambda School

Endorsement is required in order to work with a Mentor sourced by Lambda School.

What happens to my ISA if I withdraw from Lambda School? Do you have a refund policy?

We offer a refund policy for people who leave Lambda School, based on completion of sprints. For full-time Students, a sprint is one week long. For part-time Students, a sprint is two weeks long.

If you drop out during the first 4 sprints, your ISA is cancelled completely. After 4 sprints you become responsible for 40% of the ISA. This means instead of paying 17% for 2 years, you'd pay 6.8% for 2 years (40% of 17% = 6.8%). Each sprint thereafter you become responsible for another 10% of the ISA. After 10 sprints, you're responsible for the full ISA.

The 5-year life of your ISA starts on your last day in class.

What if I'm somehow kicked out of Lambda School?

Student who are removed from Lambda School due to violations of the Code of Conduct will have their income share agreements prorated as described above in our refund policy.

Am I allowed to switch courses or between full-time and part-time?

Students are allowed on a case-by-case basis to switch to a different course within the first two units of the course, or 8 sprints. In order to switch to a new course, you must go through the standard acceptance process including satisfactory completion of all pre-course work. Students are allowed to switch courses once. We also strongly encourage that Students continue with their current coursework in case they are unable to satisfactorily complete the pre-course work.

Switching between full-time and part-time within the same course is strongly discouraged. In exceptional circumstances, it may be approved on a case by case basis and will not affect the terms of your ISA.

Can I pay tuition instead of signing an ISA?

Yes. Tuition for our courses is $20,000 USD.

Do I need to be a US citizen to be a Student?

We accept Students from all around the world. As of this edit (April 10, 2019), Income Share Agreements are available to two groups:

If you're not eligible for an ISA you can still attend Lambda School by paying tuition.

1.

People who live in the US who are US Citizens, US Permanent Residents or DACA recipients

2.

People who live in the EU who are EU Citizens

Can I decide halfway through class that I'd prefer to pay tuition instead of my ISA?

Not at this time. In order to start class, you must either have a signed ISA or have made your upfront tuition payment. You do not have the option to pay upfront tuition once you have a signed ISA. Students still have the option to pay off their ISA in full (cap amount).

Who services the ISA? Lambda School?

You will sign the ISA through Leif, our ISA partner. Leif will originate and service the ISA.

When does the 5-year ISA period begin? When I sign?

No. The ISA begins on your last day of school. To be clear: the life of the ISA is 5 years, meaning we have 5 years to collect payment. But once you've made your required monthly payments, the ISA is complete.

Can I sign another ISA w/ another school after Lambda?

No. Our ISA requires that you sign no other ISAs. (Also we want to make sure you get a job, not go on to more school.)

Once either your ISA is paid off or the 5-year ISA term has ended you can sign another organization's ISA.

When will my 1st payment be?

Payments are collected on the 1st of the month, and Leif gives a 28-day starting grace period to Lambda Students.

For example, if you start a job on August 15th, the 28-day grace period would bump you past the September 1st payment. Your 1st payment would then be the next month, October 1st. EU ISA details are still in development...this may vary for Europeans.