



infopack

Congratulations on your acceptance into the iXperience 2015 Summer Program!

Within this comprehensive Infopack, you'll find out about everything you need to prepare your trip to Cape Town next summer.

welcome to the iX family!



iX management team



Aaron Fuchs, CEO

Aaron grew up on a farm in the remote winelands of Stellenbosch. He only interacted with his first computer when he was 14 years old. He always had a passion for building things. His first day in America was his first day of college at Yale University, where he studied Mechanical Engineering. After completing his degree, Aaron went to work on Wall Street for a couple of years. Realising that Cape Town was the best place on earth, he decided to go home and follow his dream of working in Tech. He got a job as the Product Manager at a tech startup, Prodigy Finance. Learning to code was the most liberating experience of his life. He decided that he wanted to empower people with the same skill. This is how iXperience started.



Darren Kramer, CFO

Darren Kramer was born, and has lived, in Cape Town his entire life, in the last 6 years he has been actively involved in becoming a full time venture capitalist. He has founded 2 companies, a thriving conference company livingyourbrand.com and an online property portal propertytube.com. Darren has a strong passion for education and South Africa and 5 years ago he started his own charity called [Bottomup](#), whose belief is that every child deserves the best education possible; one that nurtures their sense of pride, belonging and identity and offers them the skills to create a better future. Bottomup exists to provide children in under-resourced schools with enriching educational opportunities that support their development." He has realized the massive lack of tech education in South Africa and co-founded iXperience as he believes it is the product of change in South Africa.



Alexis Gillis, COO

Having travelled the world and seen some of the most beautiful places on earth Alexis is obsessed with Cape Town. Alexis was born and raised in Cape Town and after high school completed a qualification in Hotel Management. Her passion for people and the service industry was evident from the start. For the next two years she worked at the best game reserve in the world - Singita - and the five star deluxe Athenaeum Hotel in London. Alexis then chose to share her enthusiasm for life with the youth as a Division Head at a summer camp in Pennsylvania for 3 seasons. She also worked in the stills photographic industry for 5 years with Cape Town Productions. Alexis loves the fast paced forever changing tech industry; she is excited and thrilled to be part of the iXperience team and can't wait to share this awesome city with you all!

Q&A time.

first up: getting to Cape Town

Travel Arrangements

What dates do I need to **arrive** in and **leave** Cape Town?

8 weekers

Session 1: **17 May** – **11 Jul**

Session 2: **14 June** – **8 Aug**

Session 3: **12 July** – **5 Sept**

4 weekers

17 May – **14 June**

14 June – **12 July**

12 July – **9 Aug**



Can I arrive earlier and/or leave later than the dates above?

Please try to arrive and leave on the specified dates as this is when your accommodation and airport shuttle is booked for. If you have to arrive earlier or leave later you will need to arrange and pay for an airport shuttle and extra accommodation. If you'd like to book extra accommodation at the same place you'll be living at throughout the iX program, please book through [Once In Cape Town](#). They can also arrange an airport shuttle for you.

Do I need to book my own flights?

Yes, please make your own travel arrangements. As soon as you've booked your flight, please email your arrival **and** departure flight details to Alexis so we can keep track of when you're arriving.

What do I do when I arrive at the airport in Cape Town?

If you arrive on the correct dates, as you step out of Arrivals it'll be hard to miss the friendly IX Vibe Manager holding up a sign with our logo on it. We will have a shuttle waiting to take you to your accommodation. If you arrive earlier or later please make your own arrangements and inform Alexis.

Do I need to apply for a VISA to come to South Africa?

US Citizens don't need to apply for a VISA to come to South Africa. Most other nationalities do not have to apply either, but please do your research if you are unsure.

Your accommodation

Where will I be staying?

[Once In Cape Town](#) (73 Kloof Street) – a trendy backpackers in the centre of Cape Town, surrounded by some of the city's finest restaurants and shops, and walking distance from the IX building. [Click here](#) for video tour of your accommodation.



Is there an en-suite bathroom?

Yes, each room has its own bathroom (Shower, basin, toilet, mirror)

What's the rooming situation?

You'll be sharing a room with one or two of your fellow IXers of the same gender. Feel free to send us your request of a roommate ASAP if any of your friends are in the same session as you, otherwise we will match you up with a fellow like-minded, tech loving IXer.

How safe is our accommodation?

Once is located in a safe and trendy area of Cape Town, Kloof Street. For peace of mind they have equipped surveillance through the building, as well as 24 hour security on the ground floor. All rooms have standard key locks and lockable storage.

Is there Wifi at Once?

Yes, free unlimited Wifi is always available at your accommodation, allowing you to code late into the night!

Can I prepare my own food?

Yes, there is a communal kitchen available at Once for every student to use. You can make use of a stove, oven, microwave, fridge, kettle and toaster, as well as personal food storage space that is allocated to each room. The iX House also has a fully equipped kitchen which you are welcome to use, as long as you clean up ;)

Getting around Cape Town

How will I get to and from the iX House every day?

It's a 2 minute walk – basically across the road from your accommodation!

Does Cape Town have decent public transport?

Cape Town has recently implemented a world class transport system - the MyCiti Bus Service - allowing people to easily move around the entire city without any delays.

How does transport work while I'm interning?

The internships vary in location. Some are in walking distance and others require public transport. Once your internship is finalized we'll help you work out the transport logistics.

Uber is in Cape Town!

Recently, the likes of [Uber](#) has revolutionised the way the private transport sector in Cape Town operates. With just the click of a button on your phone, you can have a taxi driver at your exact location in under 5 minutes – you can even track them as they approach you. **Please make sure you download Uber onto your phone and hook it up to your credit card before you arrive in Cape Town (PS: it's a lot cheaper here!).**



What's the weather like?

May, June, July and August is a very nice time to visit Cape Town if you love the great outdoors and don't need 90°F every day. The vegetation soaks up the water and blossoms all across Cape Town. You won't see the Cape Peninsula any greener. Wind and rain do sweep the streets of Cape Town sometimes, but then on other days the temperature might rise up to 70°F! When packing, take something for every season. Sunshine, rain, overcast, wind: you'll experience it all during your months in Cape Town

What to bring to Cape Town

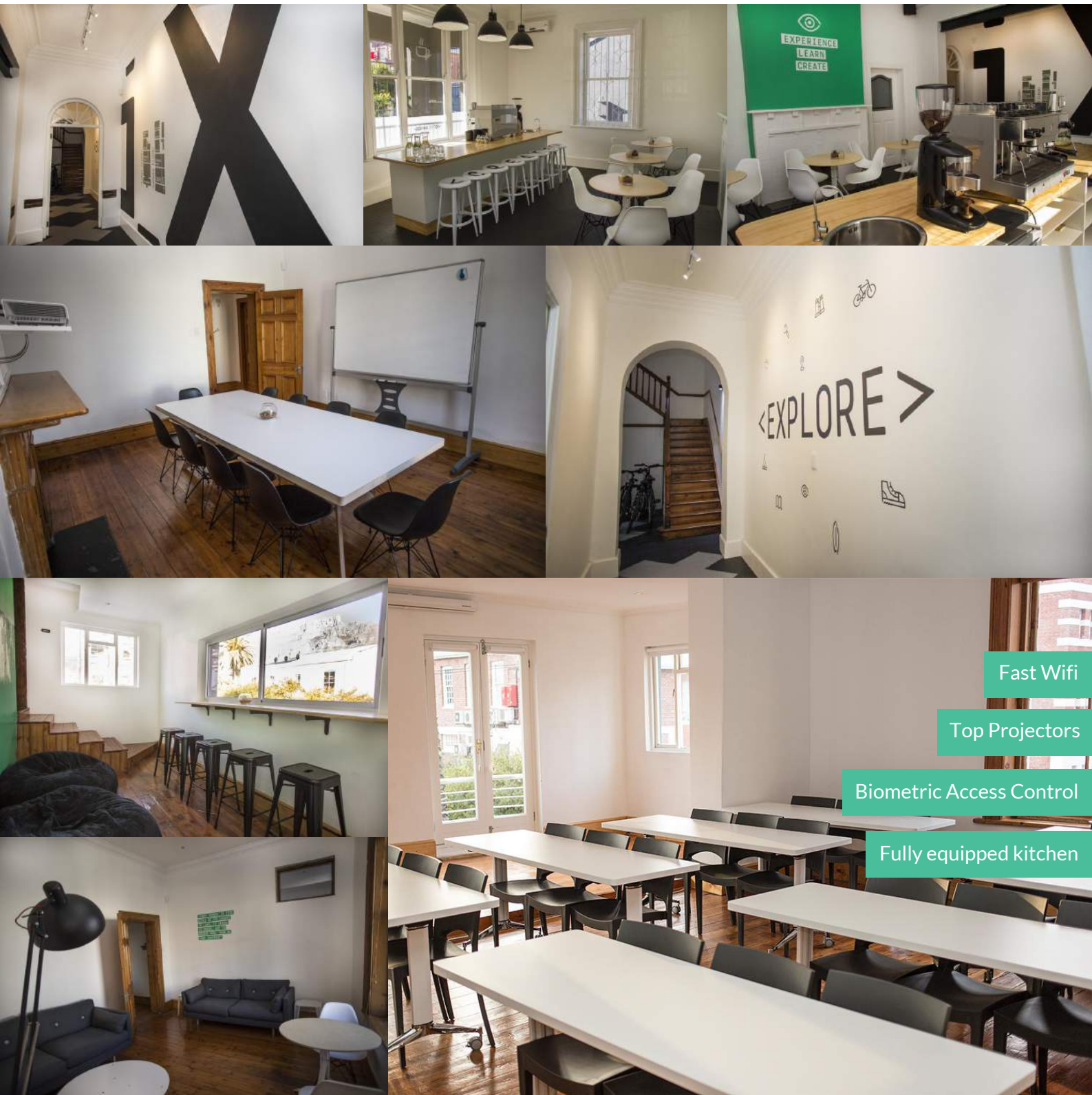
- ▶ Warm clothing
- ▶ Waterproof jacket
- ▶ Small Umbrella
- ▶ Swimwear
- ▶ Trainers
- ▶ Laptop & Charger
- ▶ Notebook
- ▶ Backpack
- ▶ Toiletries
- ▶ Beach towel
- ▶ Shower towel
- ▶ Laundry bag
- ▶ International adapters
- ▶ All prescription medicine

Make sure your cell phone is usable in South Africa

Before you arrive, contact your service provider and make sure your phone is unlocked internationally and for all simcards. In Cape Town you'll be able to purchase a pay-as-you-go sim and data bundle that you can use for the duration of the course.

The *Legendary* iX House

Located in the centre, vibey hub of Cape Town, our space is designed to make you feel at home, that's why we call it the iX House. You can chill out here, watch movies here, make food, have coffee or read a book in the breakaway room with Table Mountain in the background... Here are some pictures:



Fast Wifi

Top Projectors

Biometric Access Control

Fully equipped kitchen

Food

I hear breakfast is included in our tuition?

You heard right! Breakfast with coffee is included in your tuition and will be served Monday to Friday for the full 8 weeks. Lunch and dinner are for your own account.

Where is our breakfast served?

Across the road from your accommodation at a trendy cafe.

Is there a place to grab lunch near class?

Yes, there are fantastic restaurants and cafés in all directions within walking distance from class and your accommodation.

What does food cost in Cape Town?

The Dollar is really strong compared to the South African Rand right now, so you'll find food is pretty cheap over here. To give you an idea, a cappuccino is around \$1.60 and a 14" Pizza will set you back about \$6 to \$7.



Financials

What is South Africa's currency?

The national currency of South Africa is called **RANDS**

The exchange rate is \$1 = R11.50 - that means everything will be relatively cheap for you when you visit Cape Town.

What is the cost breakdown of the 8 week course fee?

- Lodging, Transport and food: \$3000
- Cultural Excursions: \$750
- Tuition/program fees: \$3000
- Staff Costs fees: \$750
- Admin fees: \$500

When and how do I pay my remaining course fee?

Information about your remaining course fee will be emailed to you two months before you're scheduled to arrive.



What expenses are for my own account?

Flights (with return): \$1300 (estimate)

Internal travel expense: None

Other expenses include:

- Lunch and dinner
- Laundry
- Groceries
- Sundry expenses

How will I spend money in Cape Town?

You can convert your Dollars to South African Rands at the various Exchanges in Cape Town, or use your American debit or credit card (remember to let your bank know you'll be in Cape Town!).

Almost every store and restaurant in the city accepts VISA and Mastercard. ATMs are also available all around the area you're living in.

Pre-Course Work

Since iX students have varying skill levels coming in the program, we want to make sure that everyone is on the same level before the first lecture. Before arriving in Cape Town, all students will complete a series of short courses through various online educational platforms.

The 30-40 hours of pre-course work will be made available to you one month before your session starts. By the end of these assignments, you will have a strong foundation in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and a little bit of Ruby. **No prior experience is necessary to successfully complete the pre-course work.**

How will the pre-course work be conducted?

You'll do all your pre-course work through an online platform. Don't worry, you won't need to pay for any subscriptions.

How will you know if I've completed the pre-course work?

We've designed the pre-course work for your benefit. We want you to excel and do the best you can during your time with us in Cape Town. If you commit yourself to the pre-work, you'll be able to dive right in on day 1, without any hassle. The fact that you've been accepted into the iX program already speaks volumes about your passion for learning, so we're sure you'll have no problem with this!

The Curriculum

Check out an in-depth view of the iX curriculum:

[click here](#)



General Course Questions

Are there TAs?

Yes, there will be a TA available throughout the entire class time and even after hours. They will be there to help you with any coding issue that you have and to guide you through the course. The TA's are an immensely valuable resource and we will encourage that you explore their minds as often as possible.

What is the class schedule?

You'll have class from Monday to Friday for the first four weeks. Class starts at 9:30am and officially ends at 6pm, but you'll have access to the iX House late into the night to work projects.

What is the teaching style at iXperience?

We keep classes as interactive as possible. This means lots of group and project work, applying what you learned in the day's lectures. You will have two lectures every day on a particular topic of about 1.5 hours each, each followed by an intensive coding session to get a handle of that topic. The coding will either be individual or team based, depending on the type of class. During the coding session the professor and TAs will be helping you with issues and questions. You will often be required to present your projects to the class. Read more about what it's like inside the iX Classroom from one of student-written blog posts over [here](#).



- Amandeep Saini – iX 2014 Student

How many students are in my session?

To maintain a great learning environment, each session is limited to a small class of between 20-30 like-minded, passionate students.

How long is our lunch break?

1 hour: 1pm - 2pm. Take a well-deserved break and check out some of the great and affordable restaurants around the iX House.

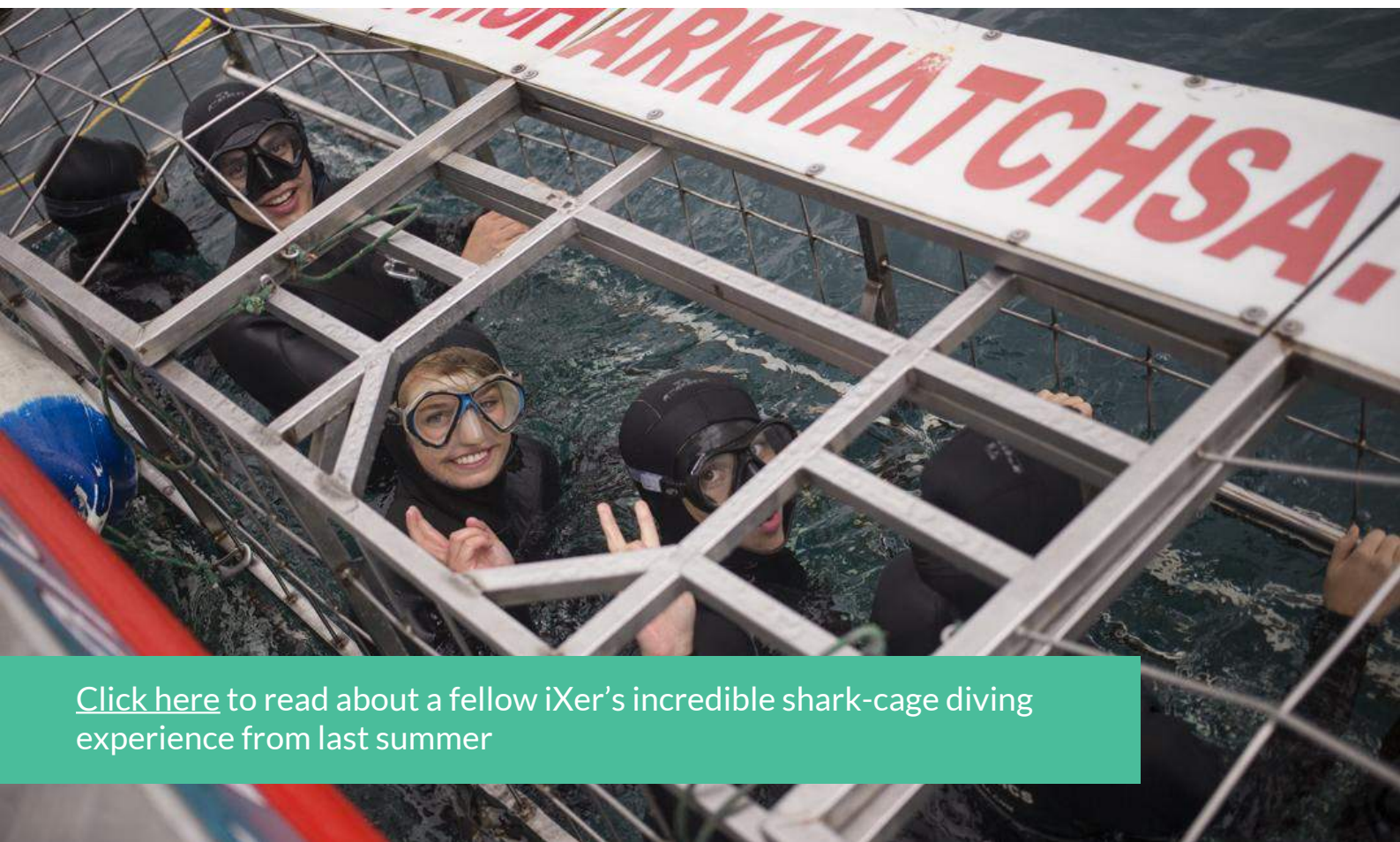
Do I need to bring a laptop?

Yes. While Macs are most popular, don't worry if you have Windows or Linux – you won't be affected at all.

Do I need to install any special software before I arrive in Cape Town?

Any setup that is needed for a coding environment will be described in the pre-work. All additional software you'll need is completely free.

All other questions about the class are answered on our FAQ page [here](#).



[Click here](#) to read about a fellow iXer's incredible shark-cage diving experience from last summer

meet your instructor

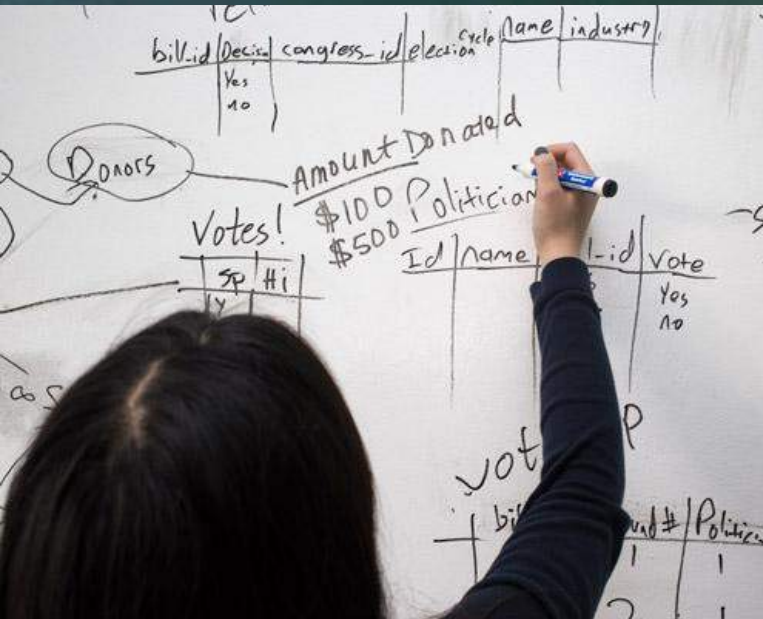


Brian Bugh

Brian began programming in 1993 in small town Iowa. During his 17 year-long career, he has worked in every size and type of company, from a sole proprietorship to the largest mega-national government travel agency. He is passionate about teaching programming, product design, and business to a new generation of developers. Brian now lives in San Francisco, where he is an instructor at General Assembly and a Senior Web Developer at Beezwax, as well as a freelance mentor and advisor.

“Programming is the most broadly applicable skill that you can learn right now.”

[click here](#) to read Brian’s iX blog post where he answers some questions about the upcoming summer



After the course

Will I get a certificate after I complete the course?

Yes, iXperience will give you a certificate of completion upon the end of the course.

What would I put on my CV after the course?

Besides for having all your code stored in an online repository (github) that you can keep and use to show potential employers, as well as the experience you gain from your internship, we are committed to helping you achieve the best you can after you've graduated from the iX program. iXperience CEO Aaron Fuchs will personally review your CV and help you edit it to best reflect your potential.

The Internship

What companies are you partnered with for the internship?

iXperience has partnered with some of the most innovative tech and social impact companies in Cape Town, including:

- Platform45
- Siyelo
- Greenpop
- 22seven
- Prodigy Finance
- Liquid Thought
- This list is always growing so we'll just cut it off here

Do I get to choose a company to intern for?

During the the first four weeks of learning, iXperience will host an Company Intern night. A representative from each intern company will attend and have an opportunity to present their company to the class. After all the presentations, each student will submit the top three companies they would like to intern for and we place you accordingly with another iXer.

Will I be compensated for my intern work?

The internships are unpaid. The main focus of the intern companies is to provide you with an environment where you can learn about the tech world and expand on the skills that you have learnt on the course in a realistic space.

Will I only intern for one company during the four week internship?

Yes, we want you to get a good understanding of how a startup operates, how they run their business, how they integrate technology into their business.

Do I still go on weekend excursions during my internship?

While interning, you will have more freedom to explore Cape Town. While there won't be any iXperience excursions during this period, we will provide you with a comprehensive list of things you can do, or you can make your own arrangements to see more of South Africa. Once In Cape Town (your accommodation) offers free excursions such as hikes, walks and beach visits which you are more than welcome to sign up for. Last year, many of our students formed groups and took a few days off to explore the beautiful east coast of South Africa.

Learn more about the iX internship program through [this video](#).

Read about iX 2014 Student Mikenzie's internship experience with Prodigy Finance [here](#)



"I HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF CREATION THROUGH CODE, BUT I ALSO REALISED MY LIMITATIONS."

Medical and Safety

What happens if I get sick while in Cape Town?

Inform us immediately by calling the one of the iX Vibe managers and they will go with you to a doctor or take you to the closest pharmacy. Our Vibe Managers are reachable 24/7, whenever you need them. They are there to make sure you have the best time ever and will always have your back.

Do I need to get shots before I fly out to Cape Town?

No, there is no need for you to get *any* shots. Cape Town (and much of its surroundings) is Malaria free and Yellow Fever free – you're not at any open risk of catching a disease here.

Is there Ebola in Cape Town?

Not at all. There has not been one single reported case of Ebola in Cape Town in the last thirty years and there is no cause for concern. Cape Town's airports have world-class screening processes that protect the city from any kind of outbreak, and their methods have proven effective for decades.

Will my health insurance work in Cape Town?

You'd have to check if your health insurance provider covers you internationally.

What if there is an immediate emergency?

Like dialing 911, Cape Town has an emergency services centre which can be reached by dialing 112 from your cellphone. Your iX Welcome Pack also includes a list of staff and emergency numbers.

Can I go to gym in Cape Town?

Definitely. We encourage you to keep as active as possible during your stay. There are several gyms within walking distance from the iX House which you can sign up for.

How secure is the iX House?

For peace of mind the iX house has top security. Students, teachers and staff enter through fingerprint recognition. The iX House is always monitored by 24 Hour surveillance with armed response on call.

that's it!

We hope this infopack has been helpful and answered any questions you may have had, but if there is something you're still unsure about, please don't hesitate to [contact Alexis](#) – she is always happy to help :)

We are incredibly excited to welcome you to Cape Town this summer and experience this journey with you. After iXperience you will not only have the perfect foundation for a career in the booming world of tech, but a newfound appreciation for our beautiful, sexy city and culture.

follow us around!

We will be posting all kinds of interesting, jaw-dropping stuff leading up to the summer – make sure to follow us on all the social platforms we're active on:

