

# Dónal McDermott

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

<b>STEM Racing Ireland (formerly F1 in Schools)</b> <i>National Director</i>	Sep. 2024 – Present Galway, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oversee Ireland's national STEM Racing competition, where students design and race miniature Formula 1 cars.</li><li>Led operations, partnerships, and events across universities, sponsors, and mentors to expand program quality and reach.</li></ul>	
<b>Athlone Fiddle Lessons</b> <i>Founder and Lead Teacher</i>	Aug. 2022 – Present Athlone, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Built and manage a small music school offering traditional Irish fiddle tuition.</li></ul>	
<b>Cashew</b> <i>Founder and CEO</i>	July 2025 – Jan. 2026 Dublin, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Built and led a team developing an AI-powered contact memory app.</li><li>Pitched at Patch Accelerator Demo Day to 300+ attendees, secured early testers, and led product design, branding, and investor outreach.</li></ul>	
<b>Ericsson</b> <i>Software Engineer Intern</i>	May. 2025 – Jul. 2025 Athlone, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Built automation scripts and redesigned UI components for Ericsson's Cloud Native Infrastructure Verification (CNIV) platform, improving deployment efficiency and lowering customer support load.</li></ul>	

## PROJECTS

<b>F1 in Schools</b> <i>Team Manager and Lead Engineer - Catalyst Racing</i>	Oct. 2021 - Sep. 2023 Athlone, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Managed engineering and design for Ireland's fastest F1 in Schools car, leading the team to 5th place worldwide.</li></ul>	
<b>CanSat</b> <i>Head of Aerospace and Satellite Design - Team Atlas</i>	Oct. 2022 - May 2023 Athlone, Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Designed and launched a CanSat to assess exoplanet habitability using environmental sensors, onboard imaging, and a custom landing system.</li></ul>	
<b>BT Young Scientist</b> <i>Development of Embedded Safety Systems to Reduce Marine Casualties   2023</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Built a real-time ESP-32 tracking device to locate overboard ship passengers.</li></ul>	
<b>Automated Pothole Detection and Reporting System   2022</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developed a system to automatically detect and report road potholes using computer vision.</li></ul>	

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Galway</b> <i>Bachelor's Degree in Electronic and Computer Engineering</i>	Expected 2028 Galway, Ireland
<b>Marist College Athlone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leaving Cert Grade: 613/625 points</li></ul>	May. 2024

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Naughton Scholarship** – National STEM scholarship awarded for excellence in science and engineering.
- Meta Engineer of the Future Award** – Recognized for innovation and technical achievement.
- Student of the Year 2024** – Marist College.
- Madden Art in Engineering Award** – Honoured for artistic innovation inspired by engineering design.
- Patch 2025 Fellow** – Selected for a competitive entrepreneurship program developing an AI-driven product.