Michal Szczepan

Co-Founder & CTO | Engineering Student | Entrepreneur *Passage West, Cork, Ireland*
Email: mchalszczepan@gmail.com | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/michal-szczepan-728189370
Portfolio: michal-szczepan.neocities.org

Professional Summary

Ambitious Engineering student and ed-tech founder with a track record of turning problems into ventures. Achieved 613/625 points in the Leaving Certificate and currently holds a 1:1 average grade at UCC. As Co-Founder & CTO of Ganzy, I lead a team of senior developers building an adaptive learning platform for the Irish market. Previously founded a profitable custom PC business (Oct 2019 – Feb 2023) generating €8,000+ in revenue while navigating global supply chain crises. I combine technical literacy (Python) with strong product management skills, bridging the gap between engineering and business strategy.

Entrepreneurial Experience

Ganzy | *Co-Founder & CTO*
Cork, Ireland | Jan 2024 – Present A high-growth EdTech startup transforming Leaving Cert preparation through adaptive scheduling and microskill breakdowns.

- **Technical Leadership:** Directing the technical vision and product lifecycle from specs to QC. Managing a cross-functional team of 4 senior developers and 1 technical advisor to deliver a market-validated SaaS product.
- **Product Strategy:** Orchestrating the transition from Pre-Alpha to Beta launch, targeting 3,000 active users within 6 months.
- **Traction:** Achieved **50,000+ organic views on TikTok**, validating strong student demand.
- **Development:** Architecting the functional requirements and overseeing the implementation of a Python backend, React frontend, and AWS infrastructure.
- **Commitment:** dedicating 45-50 hours/week alongside full-time university studies.

GiveAGo Buildathon | *Participant & Developer*
Cork, Ireland | Jan 17, 2026

- **AI Implementation:** Developed a Python-based automated messaging application during a rapid prototyping workshop.
- **Tech Stack:** Utilized **Browser-use** (AI agent tool), external APIs, and Python to create a system that schedules and sends randomized, context-aware messages to friends and family.
- **Outcome:** Successfully demonstrated a functional prototype integrating agentic AI workflow automation.

Custom PC Venture | *Founder*
Cork, Ireland | Oct 2019 – Feb 2023 Bootstrap hardware sales and repair business launched at age 14.

- **Revenue Generation:** Generated **€8,000+ in revenue** by sourcing, assembling, and selling custom gaming PCs.
- **Supply Chain Management:** Navigated the 2020 global silicon shortage by forecasting component availability and pivoting procurement strategies.
- **Resilience:** Rebuilt operations after a significant fraud setback and market crash, learning critical lessons in financial security, negotiation, and fraud awareness.
- **Scaling:** Scaled from single-unit sales to bulk buying and concurrent builds, hiring an assistant for marketing during peak periods.

Leadership & Community

Hult Prize at UCC | *Campus Director*
University College Cork | Jan 2025 – Present

- Running a "mini-accelerator" within the university for the world's largest student social entrepreneurship competition.
- Recruiting student teams, organizing pitch workshops, and securing mentors/judges to help students build high-impact social enterprises.
- Fostering an ecosystem where students solve UN Sustainable Development Goals through for-profit business models.

EduCat / ScreenPaws | *Project Lead*
TECS Competition & Entrepreneurial Mindset Module

- Developed a mobile app concept to turn unproductive screen time into educational micro-learning.
- **Prototyping:** Built an initial Android prototype in 28 days without prior Kotlin experience.
- **Iteration:** Refined the product through customer discovery and user journey mapping, resulting in a high-fidelity Figma prototype renamed "ScreenPaws".
- **Vision:** Validated the "unlock device via education" mechanism as a viable tool for parent-child digital wellbeing.

Education

University College Cork (UCC) | *BE in Electrical & Electronic Engineering*
Sept 2023 – Present

- **Average Grade:** First-Class Honours (1:1)
- **Key Modules:**
  - **UW0007 Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset:** Engaged in intensive experiential learning focused on effectuation, creative problem solving (e.g., "20 Uses" exercise), and team dynamics. Validated the "ScreenPaws" venture through customer discovery, rapid prototyping in Figma, and pitching to peers. Gained critical insights into resilience and scaling from industry leaders like Donal Daly and Pat Lynch.
  - **UW0013 Essentials of Artificial Intelligence:** Studied the ethical deployment, sustainability, and economic impact of AI technologies. Explored frameworks for "moral AI" and efficient utilization, culminating in practical application through workshops on agentic AI tools.
  - **Engineering Mathematics & Senior Programming:** Strong foundation in core engineering principles and software logic.
- **Activities:** Student Council Class Rep, UCC Spark Ignite.

Leaving Certificate | *Christian Brothers College, Cork*
Graduated 2023

- **Points:** 613 / 625 (Top 2% nationally)
- **Results:** H1 in Applied Maths, Mathematics, Chemistry, Politics, Biology. H2 in Physics, French.
- **Awards:** Applied Maths Olympiad participant, Chemistry Pfizer Olympiad participant, Philosoph Semi-Finalist.

Skills & Technologies

- **Programming:** Python (Core competency, API integration, Automation), HTML/CSS.

- **Tech Stack Management:** Familiar with React, Next.js, FastAPI, AWS, SQL (Managing developers in these technologies).
- **Product Management:** Agile/Scrum Methodologies, Feature Prioritization (MoSCoW), User Requirements Mapping, Roadmap Planning.
- **Soft Skills:** Public Speaking (Debating), Sales & Negotiation, Leadership, Resilience, Strategic Planning.
- **Languages:** English (Native), Polish (Native), French (H2 Proficiency).

Interests

- **Rock Climbing:** A lesson in gravity and persistence.
- **Memory Techniques:** Researching and applying mnemonic strategies for rapid learning.
- **Reading:** Avid reader of sci-fi (Wheel of Time) and entrepreneurship literature.