

Dear accepted fellow,

We thank you for trusting Headstarter. When we wanted to do 10x more things (hackathons, IRL meetups, speaker series) than any of the 7x fellowships before and saw how things went viral because we made free, we gave ourselves more than we can chew. We will be the first to admit that. So, here's to the next 7 weeks. **For the love of god, please go find your teams.**

-Yasin

If you are viewing this on mobile, [here is a PDF](#). This is running google doc or "wiki" that will be updated a few times a day to purpose as everything you need to know about the fellowship.

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Tracks

Track A:

Originally called the “Entrepreneur track” ... this track’s purpose is to test-drive the entrepreneur spirit that many CS majors have. Moonshot ideas, social good ideas or b2b SaaS ideas are all welcome. We only thought about this track for the fellowship. Initially.

Criteria for this track:

- Platinum: 1000 DAU where [L-ness/4](#) is 50% ie 50% of users login 4/7 days a week
- Gold: \$1000 revenue in a stripe account ie 1 user pays \$1000 or 10 pay \$100 etc
- Silver: 1000 users who entered emails to “waitlist” for an idea ie connected data
- Bronze: 1000 users who visited a landing page ie google analytics

How can you prepare for this track:

- Get your team assembled, come up with an idea, scope it then scrap 90% of it. Take the concept and talk to potential users. Get feedback on ideas, then on a paper wireframe, then figma, then FE, then your full app. The more users you talk to, the faster feedback loops you can make, the closer to making \$1000

Track B:

Originally called the “tech leader” track. This track’s purpose is *intraprenuer*: an employee who develops innovative ideas or projects within an existing company. Everyone always optimizes for TC at new-grad but real TC comes 5-10 years later at manager to director levels. Folks can easily make \$500K to several million. This is preparing someone to be a tech leader, good at sales and good at bragging while being a team player and active listener. For many this is less riskier option than *entrepreneur*.

Criteria for this track:

- Platinum: ship work for a startup you find then get them to hire you by the end
- Gold: convince a startup to let you build a ticket in your own isolated environment
- Silver: be someone’s engineering team for free ie sibling, college biz major etc
- Bronze: speak to an engineer about a startup feature and build a clone of it

How can you prepare for this track:

- Find your A* team, then reach out to 10-15 startups each week. Places to find startups: 1) [YC jobs](#), 2) [Tech star jobs](#), 3) college alma mater / accelerator ...DO NOT APPLY FOR JOB.
- Rather find the founder or manager or engineer who works at the startup on linkedin or email via [Hunter](#) and politely ask to get on a call. DO NOT ASK FOR JOB. Explain you are rapidly building and would love to talk about any recent backlog projects. Thank them for their time immensely.

- Towards the end of the call or email exchange, ask to do a task for free and if they can provide you with a google doc with specifications where you can build in your own environment. Then ask if you can message them 1-2x a week with questions. If all goes well you have work from a real company whose time is very valuable bequeathing you with a task no matter how trivial. Go deliver.

Track C:

Originally called the “Google Engineer ” or “individual contributor” track. Growing up my recruiter friend at Google NYC nailed it in my head that the project they view with most prestige is “open-source” projects. Because to have an accepted pull-request you need to listen to feedback as all the elite developers that own the open source world and also contribute to what can be a very ugly repo (completely orthogonal to a create-react app project). How does this project rack up the other two tracks above? This is a “project” while the other two are more “experiences” if done right. Nothing beats making \$1000 in revenue from the code you write. Everyone can agree on that.

Criteria for this track:

- Platinum: accepted PR with our partner [Panora](#) with an ATS [connector](#)
- Gold: make a PR with code that had contributions among 3-4 team members
- Silver: demo working APIs on Postman for any of the [Panora](#) connectors
- Bronze: get 10 stars on your github repo attempt to make an open-source PR
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How can you prepare for this track:

- Lock in your team. Look through how [Panora](#) is killing [Merge](#) by making the concept of omni-channel API software (one api key that enables 40 APIs) open source. For every Headstarter project in first 5-week , you and the team should attempt to go above and beyond in delivering quality for each submission.
- This project has the highest required proficiency. Open source projects are difficult to contribute to. However, among the 3, this one also has the least potential. Where in track B you may get a job with little to no interview, track A you may create jobs, track C you may get a Fannng job after 12 months and ruthless DSA prep and interview process.
- No decision is bad decision. Only bad decisions is not making a decision.

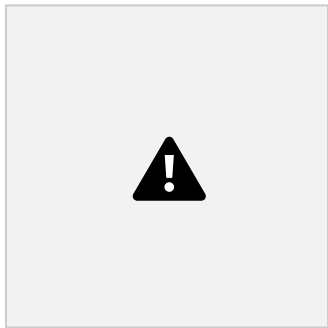
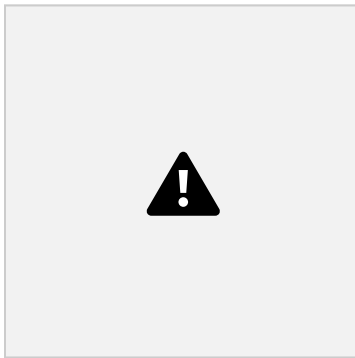
Overkill Track:

Originally for the try-hards, those who have 40 hours a week or a chip on their shoulder to do more. This is not a track by itself ie not [MECE](#) but auxiliary to existing tracks. This is a bonus. The requirements for being overkill is:

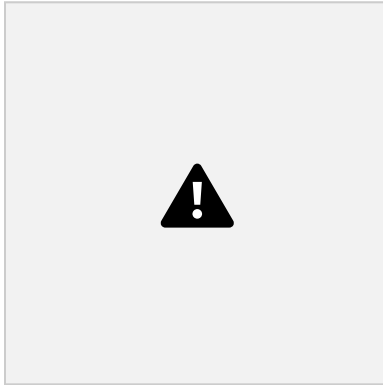
1. Post on social media everyday. Can be writing on linkedin or short-form video content. A channel will be made to track daily posts and share feedback from previous engagement.
2. Get AWS cloud practitioner certificate or AWS cloud developer certificate (5x harder). Both will cost ~\$70 on AWS website to take the online exam and should be RSVPd by week 2. Ideally if you choose to get it, you teams also. Guide [here](#) how to book an AWS exam.
3. Get on a zoom call with one new, random fellow each week and ask them to teach you something coding related they know and you don't know. We will try to disclose who the top 10%, the top 20% and 80% of fellows are. For people who ask questions on the Discord, answer them and help them with their coding projects. Point is ask for feedback and give tons of feedback.

Team

The people behind this fellowship curriculum:

Jack	Mofi
	
Former Google Software Engineer and Tech Lead, Princeton CS, MIT MBA Sold side projects and was CTO of A16z-backed company "Stonks" Twitter	Google Cloud and Gemini Engineer, CCNY CS, Former IBM 40x Hackathon Judge RAG Video Headstarter Intro Video
Will lead weekly discussions for Track A	Will be a judge for top hackathon teams.

Rachid



Sold past startup for \$500K. CEO of Panora (YC '24). From France. [Linkedin](#)

Will lead weekly discussions for Track B

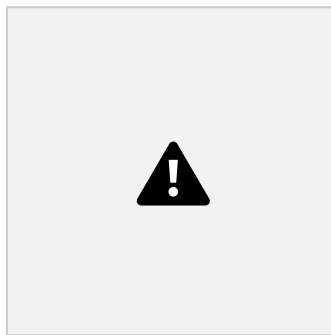
Anjelica



AI researcher at Stanford. Building bioresearch AI tool at F.inc [Linkedin](#)

Will be guest judge for top hackathon teams

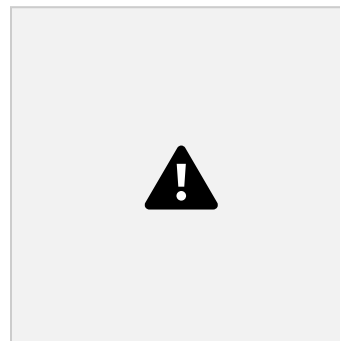
Yasin



Former Software Engineer at Capital One | 10x Hackthon Winner, Co-founder at Headstarter | [Linkedin](#)

Will try to get companies to get you hired and do 1:1 resume reviews

Faizan





Former Data Science intern at Amazon and Bloomberg | published this ML paper at 19 | Co-founder at Headstarter | [Linkedin](#)

Will create platform for community and feedback

Sajjaad

Ihsaan

 <p>Software Engineer at Splunk, 225K on IG, Georgia Tech CS BA + MS by 20yoe</p> <p>Will lead weekly discussions on Overkill track</p>	 <p>Software Engineering Intern at Courier Health Headstarter Fellow 2023 UMich DSA TA Linkedin</p> <p>Will lead weekly discussions on Track B</p>
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Hackathon + More information on tracks

Track A/B

Be specific:

- B2b Saas product
 - Type of business (enterprise, small, solo)
 - Niche (fintech, healthtech, crm-tech)
- Personal product
 - AI tool
 - Lifestyle tool
- Solve world hunger product
 - Geographic specific
 - Climate
 - Poverty / access
- Trendy / copycat product
 - Tiktok shop

Track C

Be specific:

- NPM Package
- Dev tool with documentation
- Hugging face

Get 20-100 user adoption:

- Post on linkedin
- Post on tiktok / instagram on 5-6 accounts
- Track everything using hotjar, posthog, google analytics, etc

Winning hackathon demo

Submit

- Number of users / github stars
- Reddit post
 - Powerpoint link
 - Analytics stats
 - Team dynamics
 - 3-min Video demo
- Github code link

Powerpoint

1. Opening
2. Analytics / adoption stats
3. Team
4. Problem
5. Solution
6. Demo
7. Tech stack
8. Hurdles
9. Future iterations
10. Close

Coming soon:

Opportunities to make money in the fellowship

Links and forms:

Past QnAs: Will be made private / removed by next Monday:

Headstarter Transparency questions

All post acceptance emails

Cheatsheets

Single page cheat sheet

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