

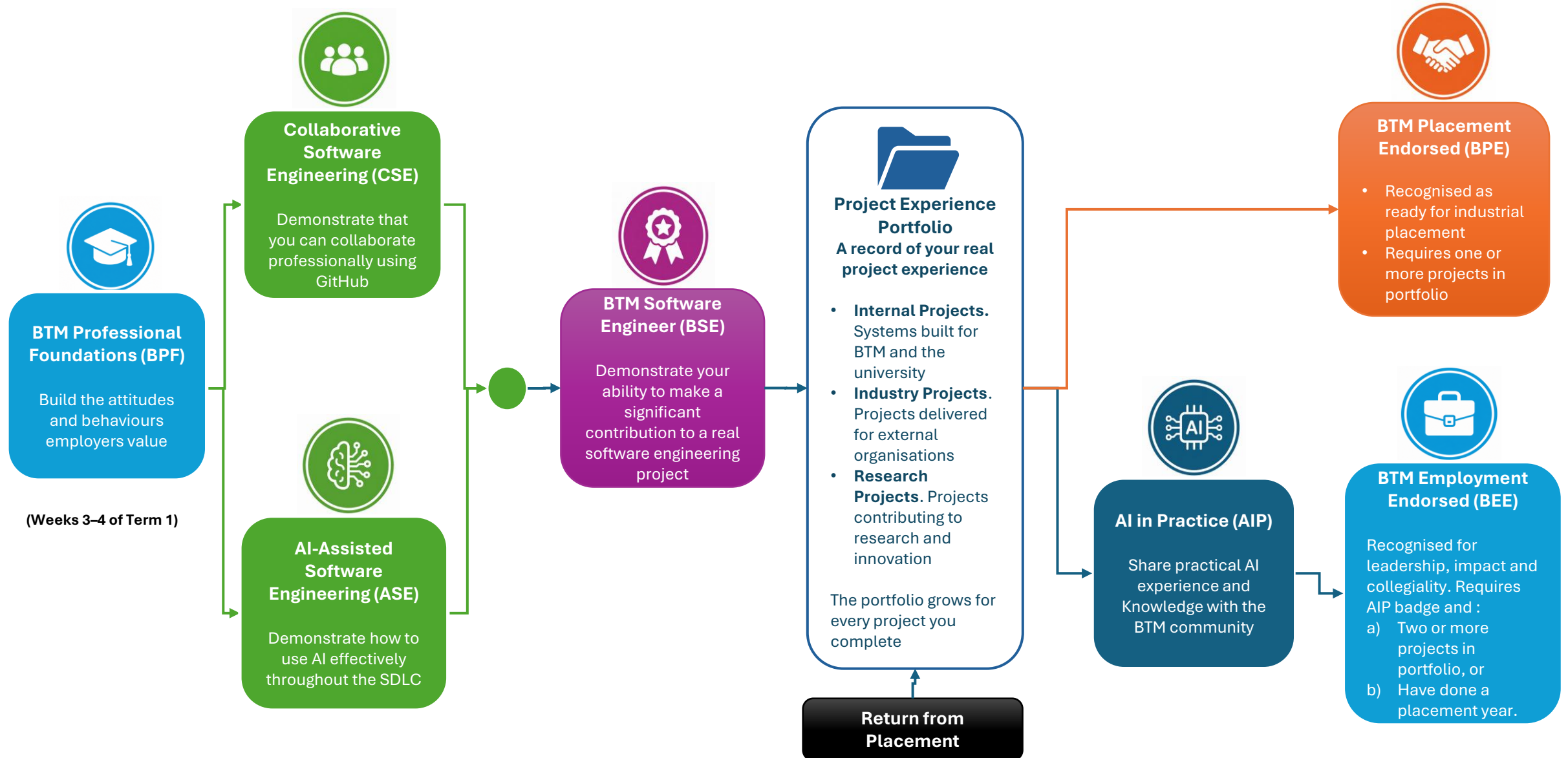


The BTM Academy is our structured professional development programme, designed to prepare students for industry projects, placements, and graduate employment.

Through technical training, collaborative engineering, AI-assisted software development, and real-world project experience, students develop the skills and professional behaviours needed to contribute confidently in industry.

Development Path (Build Capability)

Career Path (Gain Experience and Grow)





BTM Professional Foundations (BPF)

PURPOSE

Build the professional behaviours, mindset and work ethic expected before joining BTM projects.

BPF BADGE
AT A GLANCE

DELIVERY TIMEFRAME	DURATION	DELIVERY TYPE	CAPACITY
Weeks 3–4	4 hours	In-person interactive workshop	25–30 students
BADGE LEADER	PREREQUISITE	LEARNING APPROACH	
Dr Alan Serrano	None — entry point to the BTM Academy	Interactive challenges, simulations, discussion and reflection.	

How the BPF badge works

WHAT IS THIS BADGE ABOUT?

A practical introduction to the behaviours that help software engineers communicate clearly, work reliably and take ownership.

WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- **Attention to detail**
- **Professional communication**
- **Time management**
- **Ownership and initiative**
- **Collaboration and continuous improvement**

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

01 **PARTICIPATE**

Take part in the workshop challenges and discussions.

02 **PRACTISE**

Apply professional behaviours in realistic scenarios.

03 **REFLECT**

Identify personal strengths and improvement priorities.

HOW IS THE BADGE AWARDED?

Actively participate throughout the workshop and demonstrate the professional behaviours expected of future BTM members.



Collaborative Software Engineering Badge (CSE)

PURPOSE

Learn how professional software teams collaborate using GitHub.

CSE BADGE
AT A GLANCE

DELIVERY TIMEFRAME	DURATION	DELIVERY TYPE	CAPACITY
Your own pace	Your own pace	Hybrid	unlimited
BADGE LEADER	PREREQUISITE	LEARNING APPROACH	
Dr Cigdem Sengul / Romyana Neykova	BPF 	Repository exploration, issue creation, implementation, pull requests and code review.	

How the CSE badge works

WHAT IS THIS BADGE ABOUT?

Contribute to a real codebase by identifying an improvement, proposing a solution, implementing it and responding to review feedback.

WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- **Use GitHub as part of a professional workflow**
- **Write meaningful issues and pull requests**
- **Contribute safely to a shared codebase**
- **Respond constructively to code review**
- **Demonstrate ownership and collaboration**

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

01 EXPLORE

Explore the repositories and submit a high-quality GitHub Issue.

02 BUILD

Implement the approved change and open a Pull Request.

03 COMPLETE

Improve the solution through review and successfully merge it.

HOW IS THE BADGE AWARDED?

The line manager assesses the quality of the contribution, professional collaboration and response to feedback.



AI-Assisted Software Engineering Badge (ASE)

PURPOSE

Learn how to use artificial intelligence responsibly and effectively to become a more productive software engineer.

ASE BADGE
AT A GLANCE

DELIVERY TIMEFRAME	DURATION	DELIVERY TYPE	CAPACITY
Available anytime.	Online and self-paced.	Online and self-paced.	Unlimited.
BADGE LEADER	PREREQUISITE	LEARNING APPROACH	
BTM Team.	BPF 	Complete a recognised online course, experiment with AI-assisted software engineering techniques, apply them to practical examples and reflect on the results.	

How the ASE badge works

WHAT IS THIS BADGE ABOUT?

This badge introduces the practical use of large language models in software engineering—from writing effective prompts to supporting software design, coding, debugging and testing. It also emphasises responsible AI use and the importance of human judgement.

WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- **Understand prompt-engineering fundamentals**
- **Use AI to support design, coding, debugging and testing**
- **Improve prompts through experimentation and iteration**
- **Evaluate AI outputs and apply human judgement**
- **Use AI responsibly: security, privacy, ethics and hallucinations**

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

01 LEARN

Complete a recognised online course in AI-assisted software engineering or prompt engineering.

02 APPLY

Develop and refine at least three prompts, documenting how they evolved and how the outputs improved.

03 PRESENT

Deliver a three-minute presentation explaining your examples, learning and future application of AI.

HOW IS THE BADGE AWARDED?

Your line manager assesses the presentation, prompt improvements, understanding and evidence of effective iteration. Further iterations may be requested.



BTM Software Engineer Badge (BSE)

PURPOSE

Move beyond coursework by applying your knowledge, technical skills and professionalism to deliver meaningful value through a real BTM software engineering project.

BSE

BADGE
AT A GLANCE

DELIVERY TIMEFRAME

Available anytime, subject to suitable project opportunities.

DURATION

Project-dependent.

DELIVERY TYPE

Practical, project-based work.

CAPACITY

Subject to project availability.

BADGE LEADER

BTM Team and BTM Mentors.

PREREQUISITES

BPF CSE ASE



LEARNING APPROACH

Contribute to a real BTM internal, research or industry-facing project under the guidance of a project line manager and experienced team members.

How the BSE badge works

WHAT IS THIS BADGE ABOUT?

This badge recognises a significant software engineering contribution to a real BTM project. The contribution must deliver clear value and meet the professional and technical standards expected of a BTM software engineer.

WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- **Apply software engineering knowledge in a real project**
- **Deliver a meaningful feature, improvement or technical solution**
- **Work with requirements, repositories and professional workflows**
- **Strengthen problem-solving, communication and ownership**
- **Build evidence of professional software engineering experience**

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

01 **SELECT**

Agree on a meaningful contribution with the project line manager.

02 **DELIVER**

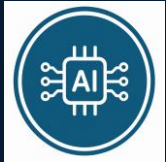
Implement and document the agreed feature, improvement, defect fix, refactoring, test automation or other valuable enhancement.

03 **REVIEW**

Respond to feedback and refine the contribution until it meets the project's technical and professional standards.

HOW IS THE BADGE AWARDED?

The project line manager approves work that provides meaningful value, meets the agreed requirements and demonstrates BTM professional standards.



AI in Practice Badge (AIP)

PURPOSE

Learn from how others use AI in real-world work and share your own practical AI experience with the BTM community.

AIP BADGE
AT A GLANCE

DELIVERY TIMEFRAME	DURATION	DELIVERY TYPE	CAPACITY
Quarterly.	30-minute live seminar.	In person or live online webinar.	Minimum five attendees; open to the wider BTM community.
BADGE LEADER	PREREQUISITES	LEARNING APPROACH	
BTM Team and BTM Mentors.	BSE 	Prepare and deliver a practical AI seminar using live demonstrations or real examples, followed by discussion and questions from the BTM community.	

How the AIP badge works

WHAT IS THIS BADGE ABOUT?

AI is changing how people work across every profession. This badge develops a culture of continuous learning by enabling BTM members to share practical AI experiences, lessons and new ways of working with the wider community.

WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?

- **Explore how AI can improve professional work**
- **Communicate practical AI knowledge clearly**
- **Demonstrate AI tools and techniques using real examples**
- **Evaluate benefits, limitations and lessons learned**
- **Contribute to knowledge sharing across the BTM community**

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

01 **PROPOSE**

Select a practical AI application and secure support from a senior BTM member.

02 **PREPARE**

Cover the problem, tools or techniques, demonstration, benefits, limitations and practical recommendations.

03 **DELIVER**

Present a live 30-minute BTM AI Exchange seminar to at least five BTM members and facilitate discussion.

HOW IS THE BADGE AWARDED?

Awarded when the live seminar is supported by a senior BTM member and shares useful, credible and practical AI knowledge.



BTM Placement Endorsement (BPE)

PURPOSE

Recognise BTM Software Engineers who have consistently demonstrated the professionalism, reliability and work ethic expected in an industrial placement.

BPE

ENDORSEMENT
AT A GLANCE

WHAT THE ENDORSEMENT RECOGNISES

The student is ready to work in a professional environment, collaborate effectively and make a positive contribution to an employer from the outset.

ELIGIBILITY TIMEFRAME Second year or above, before an industrial placement.	EVIDENCE PERIOD Sustained performance across one or more completed BTM projects.	CAPACITY Unlimited—awarded to every eligible student who meets the standard.	DECISION-MAKER BTM project line manager.
PREREQUISITES Second year or above; BSE; at least one qualifying BTM project contribution.		EVIDENCE SOURCE Project Experience Portfolio plus observations and feedback from BTM project line managers.	



How the BPE endorsement is earned

WHY THIS ENDORSEMENT MATTERS

Technical skills may help you get noticed, but professionalism earns trust. The BPE confirms that you have demonstrated the behaviours required to succeed in an industrial placement.

ELIGIBILITY PATHWAY

Hold the BSE badge and complete at least one of the following:

- An industry-facing BTM project.
- A significant software engineering contribution to one or more BTM internal or research projects.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE PORTFOLIO

A record of your real project experience.

- Internal projects — systems built for BTM and the university.
- Industry projects — work delivered for external organisations.
- Research projects — contributions to research and innovation.

The portfolio grows with every project you complete.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOURS ASSESSED

- Professional attitude and work ethic.
- Reliability, ownership and accountability.
- Communication and teamwork.
- Ability to receive and act on feedback.
- Positive contribution to the project and BTM community.

HOW THE DECISION IS MADE

The project line manager reviews the portfolio alongside evidence gathered through sustained observation. The endorsement is awarded when the student consistently meets the professional standard expected in an industrial placement.

WHAT THE ENDORSEMENT SIGNALS

Recognised by BTM as ready to contribute professionally and reliably during an industrial placement.



BTM Employment Endorsement (BEE)

PURPOSE

Recognise BTM Software Engineers who have demonstrated the professionalism, technical capability, leadership and positive impact expected in graduate software engineering employment.

BEE

ENDORSEMENT
AT A GLANCE

WHAT THE ENDORSEMENT RECOGNISES

The student is ready to work as a professional software engineer, take ownership of meaningful work, collaborate effectively, support others and contribute positively to an employer from the outset.

ELIGIBILITY TIMEFRAME Final stage of study or after returning from an industrial placement.	EVIDENCE PERIOD Sustained performance across BTM projects, activities and, where applicable, placement.	CAPACITY Unlimited—awarded to every eligible student who meets the standard.	DECISION-MAKER BTM project line manager(s).
PREREQUISITES BSE and AIP, plus two portfolio projects or a completed industrial placement.		EVIDENCE SOURCE Project Experience Portfolio, placement experience where applicable, and sustained line-manager observations.	



How the BEE endorsement is earned

WHY THIS ENDORSEMENT MATTERS

Technical skills may help you get noticed, but professionalism, leadership and impact build lasting trust. The BEE confirms readiness to begin and grow in professional software engineering employment.

ELIGIBILITY PATHWAYS

PROJECT PATHWAY

- Hold the BSE and AIP badges.
- Complete at least two qualifying portfolio projects.
- Demonstrate sustained professionalism, ownership and impact.

PLACEMENT PATHWAY

- Hold the BSE and AIP badges.
- Complete an industrial placement.
- Apply the experience gained to make a positive contribution to BTM.

Portfolio evidence may include internal, industry and research projects.

PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES ASSESSED

- Professional attitude, reliability and ownership.
- Initiative, leadership and willingness to support others.
- Communication, teamwork and collegiality.
- Ability to receive and act on feedback.
- Commitment to continuous learning.
- Contribution to projects and the BTM community.

HOW THE DECISION IS MADE

BTM project line manager(s) review the portfolio, placement experience where applicable and sustained observations. The endorsement is awarded when the student consistently demonstrates the leadership, impact and professional qualities expected in graduate employment.

WHAT THE ENDORSEMENT SIGNALS

Recognised by BTM as ready to contribute, develop and succeed in professional software engineering employment.



BTM Professional Foundations

Registration Task

Thank you for your interest in joining the BTM Professional Foundations workshop.

25–30 places

First come, first served

Approx. 10 minutes

IMPORTANT

Registration is open during Week 3 only.

Applications received before or after Week 3 will not be considered.

The workshop will take place during Week 4.

1 Find your task

Use the first letter of your first name (as registered at Brunel) to identify what you need to find on the BTM website.

FIRST LETTER	YOUR TASK
A–E	Which BTM service develops interactive prototypes?
F–J	Which BTM case study used test-case generation strategies?
K–O	Find one member of the BTM expert team that works in UX
P–T	Find one organisation BTM has worked with more than once
U–Z	Find one reason why the BTM Academy exists



Complete Your Application

2 Prepare your email

Send an email to: btm@brunel.ac.uk

Subject

BPF2026–First Name–Surname–Student ID

Your email must include:

- ✓ A professional greeting
- ✓ Your full name
- ✓ Your student ID
- ✓ Your degree programme and year of study
- ✓ The answer to your allocated task
- ✓ Maximum 50 words explaining why you would like to join BTM
- ✓ The word READY immediately after your Student ID

3 Check before you send

- 01 Read these instructions again from the beginning.
- 02 Check that you have followed the required format exactly.
- 03 Use an AI assistant to review the professionalism, clarity and grammar of your email.
- 04 Make any changes you believe improve the message.
- 05 Send the final version yourself.

Using AI is encouraged. Responsibility for the final message remains yours.

What happens next?

Students who complete the task correctly will receive a confirmation email. We then allocate places on a first-come, first-served basis.

Attention to Detail

Initiative

Professional
Communication