



Ballerina Student Engagement Program

Scope: Concept Note

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Table of Contents

Program Title	3
Program Overview	3
Program Objectives	3
Program Outline	4
Guest Lectures/Tech Talks	4
Workshops	4
Hackathons	4
Open-Source Projects	5
Research Projects	5
Ballerina in Teaching	6
Online Certifications	6
Costs	6
Benefits	7

Program Title

Empowering Next-Generation Developers: A University Engagement Program for Modern Software Development

Program Overview

This initiative focuses on establishing a strategic partnership with universities to boost the practical skills of students in the ever-changing tech landscape. The heart of this program lies in providing hands-on experience through tailored workshops, open-source projects, and academic research, aiming to blend theoretical knowledge with real-world skills. This approach prepares students for future challenges in software development, especially in areas like microservices, cloud-native development, and API integrations. At the core of our practical training is the use of [Ballerina](#), a programming language specifically designed for creating scalable enterprise-level integration solutions effortlessly.

Program Objectives

- To equip students with hands-on experience in API integration, microservices architecture, and event-driven architectures, ensuring a comprehensive understanding and skill set in these critical areas.
- To encourage exploring a range of technologies and tools, driving forward innovation and technology.
- To foster a vibrant Ballerina community within academia that focuses on software development, encouraging the sharing of knowledge, collaboration on projects, and contributions to open-source initiatives.

Program Outline

Guest Lectures/Tech Talks

- **Duration:** Guest lectures - 1-1.5 hours / Tech talks - 30-45 minutes
- **Format:** Interactive presentation from creators of Ballerina focused on aforementioned areas.
- **Mode:** Virtual/Physical

Workshops

- **Duration:** 2-4 hours
- **Format:** Introduction to the fundamentals and advanced concepts in the aforementioned areas followed by a hands-on session and a reward challenge.
- **Mode:** Virtual/Physical
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Certificate of Participation:** All attendees will receive a Certificate of Participation, acknowledging their dedication to enhancing their technological expertise.
 - **Reward Challenge Swags:** Participants who complete the reward challenge will receive exclusive Ballerina swags, such as t-shirts, stickers, and notebooks, as a special token of appreciation for their effort and creativity.

Hackathons

- **Duration:** Typically 24 hours (subject to adjustment based on requirements)
- **Format:** Teams address real-world challenges in areas such as API integrations, microservices, and beyond by creatively applying Ballerina to innovate and effectively utilize the language's capabilities.
- **Mode:** Virtual (Can be physical, depending on the region)
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Prizes for Winners:** Winning teams receive cash prizes, exclusive Ballerina swags, and vouchers for Online Certifications celebrating their outstanding solutions.

- **Certificate of Participation:** All attendees will receive a Certificate of Participation, recognizing their innovation, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities.
- **Community Spotlight:** Exceptional projects will be highlighted on the Ballerina website and social media channels, giving teams recognition within the broader tech community.

Open-Source Projects </>

- **Duration:** 2-12 weeks
- **Format:** Collaborative development on open-source projects using the Ballerina programming language, including the Ballerina ecosystem.
 - **Level 1:** Contribution to Ballerina samples, tutorials, case studies, and use cases
 - **Level 2:** Contributions to the Ballerina ecosystem, specifically to connectors
 - **Level 3:** Contributions to real-world applications using Ballerina.
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Certificate of Contribution:** Significant contributors to open-source projects will receive certificates and vouchers for Online Certifications, highlighting their practical involvement and dedication.
 - **Community Spotlight:** Exceptional contributions will be showcased within the Ballerina community, including the newsletter, social media highlights, and features on the official Ballerina website.

Research Projects

- **Duration:** 6 months to 1 year
- **Format:**
 - **Option 1:** Use Ballerina to solve research problems
 - **Option 2:** Solve research problems prevalent in the Ballerina architecture
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Publication Support:** Outstanding research projects may receive support for publication in relevant academic or industry journals, amplifying the impact of their work.
 - **Certificate of Innovation:** Researchers who demonstrate innovative use of

Ballerina or contribute new insights to the language or its applications will be recognized with a Certificate of Innovation.

Ballerina in Teaching

- **Duration:** 1 semester
- **Format:** Integrate Ballerina as a teaching language in subjects related to the aforementioned areas
- **Mode:** Virtual/Physical
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Community Spotlight:** Students demonstrating exceptional use of Ballerina in their coursework or projects will be showcased within the Ballerina social media highlights.

Online Certifications

- **Duration:** 5-10 hours
- **Format:** Structured learning evaluated through an online proctored exam focused on the aforementioned areas.
- **Mode:** Online
- **Rewards and recognition:**
 - **Certificate of Completion:** Upon completion of the course, a Certificate of Completion will be issued, endorsing the student's Ballerina proficiency.
 - **Community Spotlight:** Certified individuals may be featured in program newsletters and on social media, celebrating their accomplishments and expertise.

Costs

This program is offered **at no cost** to the institution and the students.

Benefits

To the students:

- Equips the students with industry-relevant skills and knowledge, increasing their

employability.

- Engaging in open-source and research projects encourages teamwork and innovation, key skills sought after by employers.
- Rewards and recognition earned through the program enhance the professional portfolio, showcasing achievement and commitment.
- An opportunity to engage with peers and industry professionals, building a network of contacts and mentors in the tech industry.

To the Ballerina Community:

- Expanding the user base and developer community around Ballerina.
- Direct engagement with the next generation of developers offers valuable insights into how Ballerina is used and areas for enhancement.
- Collaborating with universities strengthens the bond between academic learning and industry needs, ensuring the relevance of Ballerina in addressing current and future tech challenges.