
42 SILICON VALLEY

Following its innovative reputation in France, **42** is a welcomed addition to Silicon Valley not just for developing top engineering talent, but also for contributing to the innovative community and nature of the valley. We are proud of our innovative education model, core values, and rigorous program. It turns out some others think we are pretty cool as well:

“A french billionaire put up \$100 million to create a tuition-free ‘college’ in Silicon Valley that’s endorsed by Jack Dorsey and Evan Spiegel.”

[**Business Insider**](#)

“**42**: the answer to life, the universe and education.”

[**TechCrunch**](#)

“This French tech school has no teachers, no books, no tuition - and it could change everything.”

[**Venture Beat**](#)

“A Computer Academy...Defies Conventional Wisdom.”

[**The New York Times**](#)

"I love the concept of **42**. I like the idea of peer learning."

Stewart Butterfield
CEO & Co-founder, Slack

"[**42** students] have the aptitude, they have the critical thinking skills, they have the qualities that we most look for in our entrepreneurs that are in our company."

Peter Fenton
General Partner, Benchmark

"It was SO cool to see. It's really unique and I haven't seen anything else like it in the world."

Jack Dorsey
Co-founder & CEO, Twitter



"My God is **42** impressive. This is not another programming bootcamp. It's another MIT."

Paul Graham
Co-founder, Y Combinator

"I was blown away..."

Kayvon Beykpour
CEO & Co-founder, Periscope

"I would do everything in my power, if I were you, to go to be at **42**."

Matt Cohler
General Partner, Benchmark

"The really awesome thing about going to **42** is you feel like you're walking into a school from the future."

Evan Spiegel
Co-founder & CEO, Snapchat



WHAT IS 42?

42 is an innovative, higher education coding school with an established campus in Paris and a new campus in Silicon Valley. Funded by French businessman Xavier Niel, **42** turns the traditional model upside down and provides industry-leading college-level education for free with no teachers, classes, books, or open admissions process. We embody the American dream by offering top quality education and the opportunity for social mobility.



THE 42 CULTURE

42 is more than just a disruptive educational model and coding school. What makes us unique and a major player in the tech world are our five defining characteristics of the **42** culture. Every element of **42** reflects our culture, from the students, to the curriculum structure and content, to the \$0 tuition and open admissions process. Inspired yet?



**Pursuit of
Excellence**



**Innovative and
Questioning**



**Creativity
& Passion**



**Commitment to
Community**



**Belief in Open
Opportunities**



“Educational institutions and even non-profit institutions are now charging a lot of money, and people have to go into debt in order to enroll in school. **42** is very much in line with our philosophy of building meritocracy and allowing people to have opportunity.”

Leila Janah
Co-founder & CEO, Samasource

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Having completed our month-long rigorous basic training, accepted students begin the self-paced **42** program: collegiate-level courses in a unique environment. With no teachers or classes, students engage in project-based learning and peer-to-peer instruction to not only learn advanced programming skills, but to also develop valuable interpersonal skills, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

While **42** is innovative in its educational structure, the goal is that students develop skills knowledge required of software engineers. Students gain critical thinking skills, creativity, and learn to question traditional systems in pursuit of better solutions. The **42** program boasts the flexibility for students to choose their specialisations without compromising essential concepts and strategic thinking. Furthermore, our curriculum is ever changing to meet the human resource needs of the tech world, meaning students develop a critical long-term foundation but also real-time marketplace skills.



WHY HIRE OUT OF 42

Unlike other student graduates, **42** students are already habituated to the work life of a programmer, spending over 8 hours a day coding real projects in a professional environment. Students spend significant amounts of time working in groups (see projects below) and yet can operate autonomously, meaning they have strong interpersonal, communication, and leadership skills.

TYPICAL PROGRAM

42 students complete a rigorous project-based program marked by skill-mastery levels and internships. Below illustrates a typical timeline and projects students complete:



Code Wars Project

Students create a compiler and virtual machine that can compile then execute assembler source code.

- *Must use C*
- *Must use their own library*
- *Group project*

Shell Project

Students re-create a unix and linux shell command executor with all of its options: environment, history, compilations, job control, signal, fork, and line control.

- *Must use C*
- *Must use their own library*

Web Project

Students re-create an intranet using one of the following frameworks:

- *Must use Ruby on Rails, Jungle, or Symphony.*

H42N42

Simulate the evolution a of bacteria colony struggling for life against a virus.

- *OCaml (functionnal langage), C# and JAVA*

FTP project

Students re-create file transfer protocol through a network to implement all of its functionality. It must be FTP protocol compliant. As a network sockets project, students need to open a connection from one computer to another but have to create a library.

- *Must use C*
- *Must use their own library*

Zappy Project

Students create a video game as well as an AI to play against and must follow a specified set of rules. Students must create a server under TCP connection, a graphical interface, and manage time, multiple client connections, and disconnection. As a network sockets project, students need to open a connection from one computer to another but have to create a library.

- *Must use C / C++*
- *Must use their own library*

Gomoku Project

Students must find a path inside a labyrinth and the AI will be an A*. The goal of the project is to build the AI.

- *Free choice of language*
- *Free choice of library*

OUR SUCCESS

With an innovative and industry-leading curriculum, we are proud to say that our students work for and take internships with top Silicon Valley companies, from those in the S&P 500 to startups out to change the world. To name a few, here are some of the companies are students work for or have internships with:

- Instacart
- LinkedIn
- Uber
- XBrain
- Facebook
- Scality
- Samsung
- StarCityGames
- Axiad IDS
- Microsoft
- Sigma
- Super Evil Megacorps
- Aira
- Fanatics



Beyond Silicon Valley

42 students are dispersed around the world, and with an established campus in Paris, our alumni work for top tech companies around Europe and more. Just to name a few in case you are wondering:

- IBM
- Amazon
- BNP Paribas
- Carrefour
- Societe Generale



In addition to careers at top tech companies, **42** students are also heavily involved in startups and startup communities.

Recast.ai, a startup by **42** students, focuses on artificial intelligence and conversational interfaces and recently raised \$1 million in funding.

Altogether, **42** has over 3,000 students between two campuses, and has received over 180,000 applications worldwide. We are proud of our students and our educational model that since its inception in 2013, has been an impetus in changing the tech world in Paris, providing well-trained and work-ready talent for innovation and tech development.

CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER

In our pursuit of excellence and innovation, we are proud to work with companies, universities, and organizations around the world. We are at the edge of innovation and developing a workforce that's ready for the digital world. We are always looking to partner in ways that help you.

Here are some examples of how we work with companies, universities, and organizations:

Presentations, Events, & Meetups

We regularly host speakers and guests for presentations on their recent work or topics of interest. Our students are always curious to know what's going on in industry, but watch you, they're sharp so expect some tough questions during Q&A. Recent meetups include guests from Slack, Google, AirBnB, and more.

Hackathons

Hosting a hackathon and need space? Join a hackathon at our place or host one! We are proud to have hosted with student groups such as TinoHacks, SiliconHacks, BaseHacks, CodeDay, HS Hacks, and more.

Innovation Labs & Projects

Similar to case studies or competitions at business schools, create a real-world dilemma and present it to our students to solve. We welcome companies for short and long-term projects in a particular area such as Artificial Intelligence that we can integrate into our curriculum or that provide an opportunity for students to engage in a problem solving.

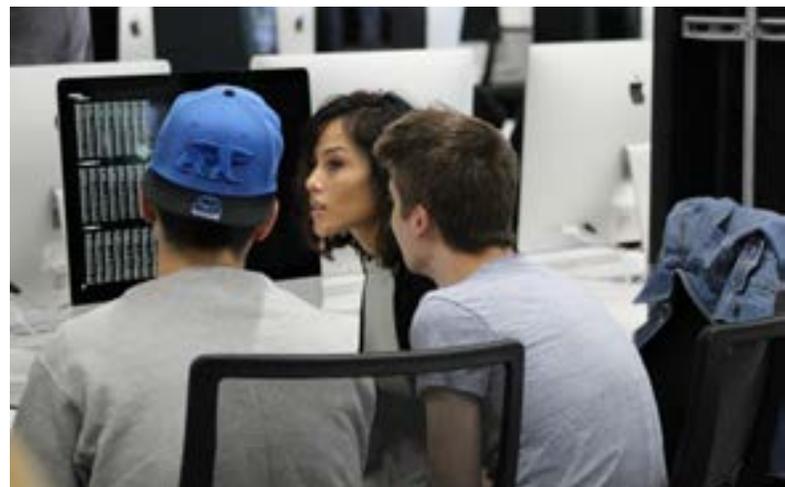
Networking & Hang Outs

As part of the tech community in Silicon Valley, we love hosting networking events, eSports events, Dev Meetups, and more. These events are a great way for our students to get involved in the local tech world and for you to spend time with the **42** community and at our facility.

Exchanges

42 has connections with universities such that students can do an exchange to a **42** campus or complement their degree with a year of coding at **42**. For example, graduate MBA students at HEC Paris have the option to take a course in computer programming at **42** for no additional cost. In exchange, **42** students are welcome to attend HEC for courses in marketing, finance, management and other business related courses. Together **42** and HEC also offer a joint program, (Startup Launchpad), to bring together business and programming students to build teams and launch their projects.

To explore opportunities with us, contact our Corporate Relations Manager [Jamie Parenteau](#) today!



GLOBAL SUCCESS

42 has multiple campuses around the world. Our largest campus is situated in the San Francisco Bay Area and our original campus and headquarters hails from Paris, France. We also have locations in Lyon, Johannesburg, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine.

Fremont Campus

Our Fremont campus has around 200,000 ft², of which around 80,000 ft² is for accommodation (not enough, significant expansion planned).



"**42**'s pedagogy teaches you how to teach yourself and leverage resources at your disposal. Learning by doing has always been the best form of education in my life. This speaks to me at the very core of how I am who I am.."



Kenneth Cheung
Jr. Software Engineer & Student

STUDENT PROJECTS

A large part of **42** is the projects students create and work on that are additional and supplementary to the **42** curriculum. Both students and companies can suggest projects, some of which are added to the **42** curriculum depending on their success. These are a great way for students to gain real-world experience and pursue their passions, and for companies to gain exposure to **42** students.

Self-Watering Plants

A group of students decided that they wanted to automate plant watering - a project that involved a combination of hardware and software. They designed and built a plant tower that waters itself based on a number of input factors such as humidity, last watering, type of plant, air temperature, etc. With the success of this project, Kenny (left) and one of his team members then wanted to tackle the **42** campus sprinkler system with a view of developing a scalable automatic watering system to help reduce commercial water consumption.



Workshop

With students who have backgrounds in electrical and mechanical engineering, and even more who like building and making things, we started a spacious workshop for students to pursue and build various projects. Led by one of our students who's a robotics fan, we want to furnish space for students to develop projects that combine software and hardware.

The workshop is a great opportunity to engage in prototyping for both companies who work with us on projects and for students who want to launch startups.



Self-Driving Car

With an acute interest in hardware and artificial intelligence, one of our students led a team who created a RC self-driving car. The car has multiple sensors and is trained to go around the track we built at the **42** campus. This is an important project because it combines software and hardware and gives students the opportunity for hands-on learning with self-driving vehicles and artificial intelligence, meaning they experience and encounter problems that simulation programs could never provide.

From there, it was time for an upgrade. **42** students are now working on creating a self-driving electric golf cart.



"Anyone, provided that they have the merit, the motivation, and the skills, can come to **42** regardless of how much money they have."

Tony Fadell

Founder, NEST & inventor of the iPhone

OUR STUDENTS: MEET RENE

Rene Ramirez is a San Francisco native with a passion for programming and a love for events. He started attending San Francisco State University, pursuing a degree in biology. Unfortunately, his grades weren't good enough and he was kicked out. With no other option, he started attending City College. «I just didn't like City College, it wasn't a helpful environment.»



Not too long ago, one of his friends sent him a message about **42** Silicon Valley. Rene decided to apply and attended Intensive Basic Training. He had to drop out to do some medical problems, but was by no means deterred and signed up to come back for another try at Intensive Basic Training. His motivation kept him going and he passed, joining the **42** student population with almost no prior coding experience. Ask him what his favorite part of **42** is and he'll tell you two things: Intensive Basic Training and the community at **42**.



OUR STUDENTS: MEET SASHA

At 18, Sasha left her hometown in Ukraine to come to the Bay Area. She had just started a computer science degree in Ukraine but decided that she wanted to attend a program that was more academically challenging, that allowed her to progress at her own pace, and that enabled students to learn real-world skills and skills for the workplace.

One of her favorite parts about **42** is the approach to learning. «You search for a lot of different solutions and you need to find the best one and understand it. You know it is the best one because you try it a lot of times and you fail and you try again.» With a passion for artificial intelligence and machine learning, Sasha has pursued the algorithms branch of the **42** curriculum and has an internship with PandaScore in Paris.

OUR TEAM

42 Silicon Valley boasts a small, solid team of both founders, staff, and student volunteers. Termed «The Bocal,» we're the nerve center of **42**, preserving the values of **42**, leading the community, overseeing operations and school facilities, forging partnerships, sharing our stories from the rooftops, and enriching the curriculum and academics at **42**. With a team of around 25, we're aiming to educate 5,000-10,000 students while maintaining a staff of around 35.



XAVIER NIEL
CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN

Xavier Niel is the founder and major shareholder of the Iliad Group, which owns and runs the leading French convergent telecom operator "Free". Launching a triple-play (internet, cable television, and phone service) offering on its "Freebox" in 2001, "Free" became the first company worldwide to combine these services out of a single device. Since 2012, the company has provided its customers with an inexpensive, revolutionary mobile service called the "Free Mobile Operator" (3G/4G). For many years Xavier has invested in the telecommunications sector throughout the world. He continues to finance more than 150 startups worldwide per year. He co-holds an ownership interest in the Le Monde newspaper as well as in several and in other media institutions. In March of 2013, Xavier co-founded **42** in Paris, which has helped over 3,000 young adult students, and **42** Silicon Valley in July of 2016, which aspires to train 10,000 young adults in the field of computer programming over the next 10 years. **42** has licensed its model collaborating with many different existing educational institutions worldwide ranging from South Africa, Romania, and Ukraine. In May of 2017, he opened the world's largest digital incubator, "Station F", a 350,000 square foot powerhouse in the heart of Paris.



KWAME YAMGNANE
CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Before launching **42** in France with Xavier Niel, Kwame participated in the creation of one of the largest computer schools in France and has led a career completely dedicated to IT both as an entrepreneur and within major large companies. His background and his empathetic nature has led him to develop a strong social fiber. He is especially involved with underprivileged young adults in education regarding computer programming.



BRITTANY BIR
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Brittany Bir is Chief Operating Officer at **42** Silicon Valley. With a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and a Masters in European Studies, Brittany went on to complete the **42** program along with the first, incoming, graduating class in Paris. Now as COO, she strives to encourage more young women to pursue tech and entrepreneurship.

Contact

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Visit our website:

www.42.us.org

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Photo credits : Maud Daujean