



Mentor Guide

1 hour a month, 9 months, helping a career changer become an engineer.

1 YOUR ROLE

You are an experienced engineer giving your mentee a real-world perspective: how the work actually happens, how to think through problems, and what the move into industry looks like. You are not a tutor, an assessor, a recruiter or a counsellor. Staff handle teaching and marking, so you never need to know the curriculum. The best sessions are conversations your mentee leads, where you react and show them how you think.

2 WHERE YOUR MENTEE IS

The course runs nine months in three trimesters. Knowing roughly where your mentee is helps the conversation.

Trimester 1 · Months 1-3 Foundations · C	Trimester 2 · Months 4-6 Python · Applications	Trimester 3 · Months 7-9 Shipping · Operating
Linux, shell, Git and C. Memory, pointers, data structures and debugging. Expect questions about C and problem-solving.	Python, OOP, software design, SQL, REST APIs and web foundations. Ends with HBntory, a team capstone. Expect design and architecture questions.	Infrastructure, CI/CD, cloud, observability and security, plus their own portfolio project for Demo Day. Expect deployment and job-readiness questions.

3 THE COMMITMENT

- 1 hour a month, nine sessions across the course.
- Face-to-face or video call whatever suits you both.
- Matched late June, first session early July, then a recurring monthly time through to March 2027.
- Your mentee sends a short prep note ahead of each session. A quick skim is all the prep you need.

4 RUNNING THE HOUR: GUIDE (You do it your way)

5 min	Catch up. How their month and energy have been.
15 min	Student update. They lead: what they built, their win, where they got stuck. Ask before you solve.
20 min	Technical discussion. Look at real code together and show how you would approach it. Or a technical topic of your choosing.
15 min	Career conversation. The realities of working in tech, and the questions they bring.
5 min	Wrap up. One takeaway, one action, confirm the next session.

5 GUIDANCE

Protect the technical block. Have them bring real code and show how you would think it through, not just the answer.

First session: Cover their background and goals, agree on how you will work together, lock in the monthly time.

If they turn up unprepared, rebuild the month with questions instead of lecturing, and point them back to their planner.

One boundary: anything beyond mentoring, like wellbeing or a course problem, goes to the Holberton team, not onto you.