

Programme Intern: Community Tech Lab 2026

Location: Queenstown Lakes District | **Engagement:** Unpaid internship (voluntary) with Startup Queenstown Lakes | **Dates:** Oct-Dec 2026 (core build), light and flexible hours

About the programme

Community Tech Lab pairs early-career and experienced developers to build three small, high-impact digital tools for local community organisations. It is funded by the QLDC Economic Diversification Fund and delivered by a partnership of six local organisations. Alongside the build teams, we want to open a door for people who are curious about technology and this kind of work but are not yet ready to join a build team. That is what this internship is for.

Who we're looking for

Someone aspiring, curious, and keen to get involved and see how a real technology project comes together. You might be exploring whether tech is for you, building confidence before applying for a junior role, or simply wanting to be part of something good for the community. No technical experience is needed at all — what matters is interest, reliability, and a willingness to learn by watching, listening, and helping where you can.

What you'll do

This is a light-touch, learning-focused role. You'll be around the teams and the work without the pressure of delivery:

- Sit in on sprint ceremonies, stand-ups, demos, and retrospectives as an observer and participant
- Shadow developers and mentors to see how tools are scoped, built, and handed over, and how AI tools are used along the way
- Help with light, non-build tasks where useful — note-taking, user research and testing, gathering feedback, and supporting documentation
- Get to know the people and organisations involved across the local tech community
- Join the closing FLINT Showcase Hui

The time commitment is intentionally light and flexible — a few hours a week — so it can fit around study, work, or other commitments.

What we're hoping you bring

- Curiosity about technology, AI, and how things get built
- Reliability and follow-through on what you commit to
- A respectful, open attitude — happy to ask questions and learn in public
- Care for the community organisations the programme supports, and discretion with anything sensitive you may see

No programming, design, or prior tech experience is required.

What you'll get

- A genuine behind-the-scenes look at how a mentored build programme runs
- Exposure to modern, AI-assisted development without needing to write code yourself
- Mentorship and connection into the Queenstown Lakes tech community via FLINT, QCC, Technology Queenstown, and QRC
- Recognition for your involvement and a reference on request
- A natural stepping stone toward the paid Junior Developer role in a future cohort — see the Junior Developer and Senior Developer & Mentor descriptions for where this can lead

This is an unpaid, voluntary internship offered as a learning and community opportunity rather than a contracted role.