



At a glance

Patch was founded in 2019 and has grown into a nationwide community of ambitious young builders. This year, 36 young people were selected from more than 450 applications across every county in Ireland. Accommodation, meals and means-tested stipends help keep the programme accessible, while seven weeks living and building together creates friendships and collaborations that continue long after Patch.

€80M+

In funding raised

1 in 4

Start a community
or company

3 Patch Alumni
Companies, Dubsof,
Source and Induct
now employing
other alumni

Patch Grants

Patch Grants has given out over €12K in funding to young people 13-19 who want to build something great.



We've funded everything from hardware supplies for smart cufflinks and air cleaning systems to trips to ethereum conferences and funding to set up a robotics club in rural Galway.

San Francisco Fellowship



Every November we take 12 people to SF to raise their ambitions. Last year we had lunch with Patrick Collison, met Sarah Friar, CFO of Open AI and a number of Irish founders and Patch Alumni

Open AI X Patch Young Builders

For the first time this year we ran Patch x Open AI Young Builders Week. This was a week long camp for 24 ambitious TY and 5th years to learn how to use AI to build quickly and think big. They built everything from agentic orchestration to a new alarm clock.



But it's not all about companies, our alumni are constantly up to new exciting things from winning hackathons to conducting research in Harvard with RSI



Alumni Stories

Our alumni community has grown to over 200 talented young people from all across Ireland. They've gone on to do some amazing things, from starting companies, building communities across Ireland and conducting study and research at some of the world's leading universities.

2 Patch Alumni get into Y Combinator

This year, for the first time, not one but two Patch alumni have gotten into Y Combinator. Ryan Morrissey, Patch '23, is building Hoplite with his co-founder Bence. After starting with a trading product, they pivoted into developer tools, building cloud-based coding agents that can pick up tasks and fix software issues automatically. Will Carkner, Patch '22, was also accepted with ProvenMetal, which he is building with Johnny Doyle. ProvenMetal is speeding up electronics manufacturing, helping hardware companies get fully assembled circuit boards back in days rather than weeks.



"Patch changed what I believed was possible for me.

It gave me the confidence, community and opportunities to successfully build, and directly inspired the work I now do through Illuminate Labs, because talent is everywhere, but access to opportunity isn't."



Ava, Patch '25, founded Illuminate Labs with Claire Halliday of Ormeau Labs to bring more opportunities to young people in the north of Ireland

"Patch has changed the trajectory of my life by giving me access to opportunities I never would have had otherwise, from working on my own projects to meeting the guys at Meta-Flux and getting to work in an exciting, fast-paced startup."

"It's opened doors that have completely changed how I see my future and what I'm capable of achieving"

Darren, Patch '25
Founders Associate at
Metaflux



Ulysses Raise \$46M lead by A16Z

Colm, Patch '19, is building Ulysses, an underwater robotics company that recently raised a \$46M Series A to expand its operations.

What started with robots planting seagrass has grown into a much bigger mission: Ulysses now uses autonomous underwater systems to inspect and protect critical subsea cables, monitor marine infrastructure and even support mine-clearance work beneath ports.



PATCH 2026

COHORT

36

PATCHERS

70%

NON
DUBLIN

36%

WOMEN

- ✓ Stripe Young Scientist winners
- ✓ Olympiad finalists & Team Ireland competitors
- ✓ Technology used by Olympic athletes
- ✓ Technologists, Scientists and Entrepreneurs
- ✓ Built AI systems, rockets, drones & medical devices

7 WEEKS
TO BUILD SOMETHING GREAT

From 450+
applications across
every county in Ireland



500K+

Users reached



13M+

Social Media
Views



20+

National STEM +
Innovation Awards



€110K+

Revenue
generated



220K+

Downloads

stripe



OpenAI



dogpatch
LABS

RETHINK
IRELAND

Our
Social
Innovation
Fund

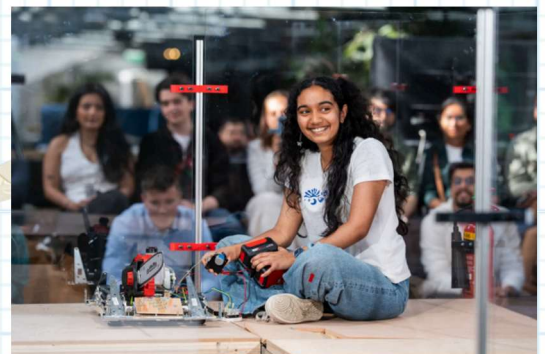
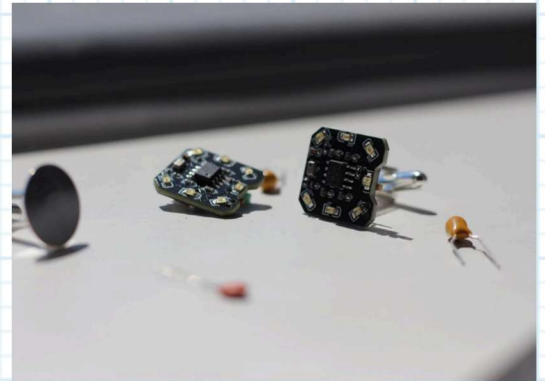
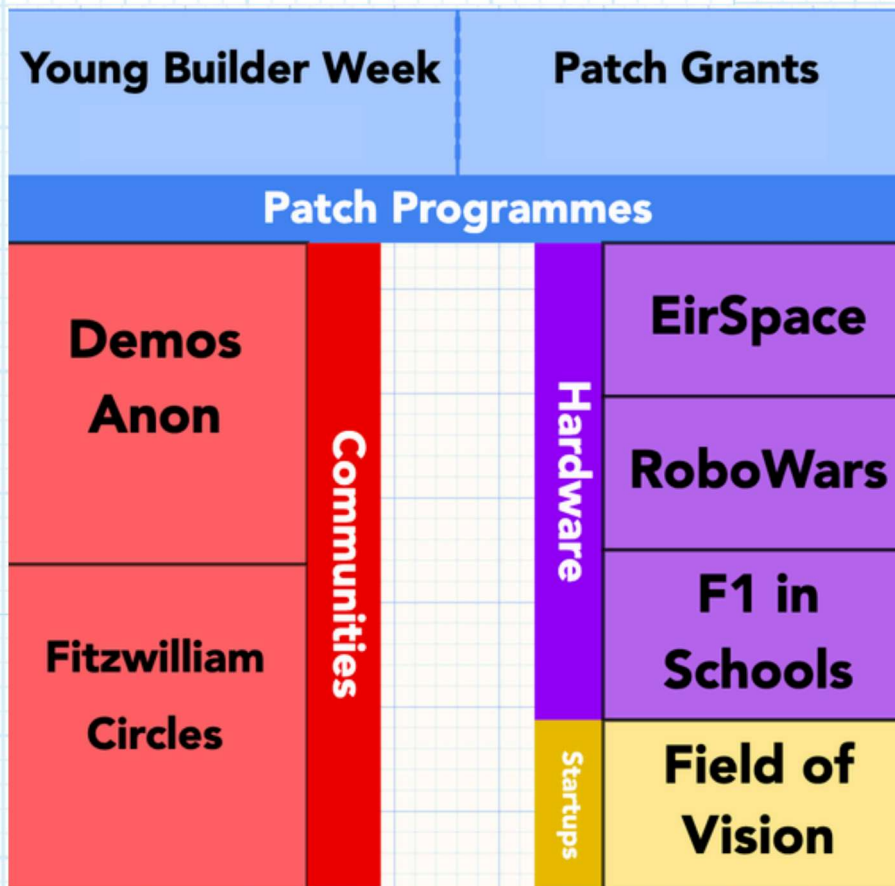


Abbey Capital

Patch Expo

The Patch Universe is everything Patchers have gone on to start after Patch: from independent student rocketry teams and robotics competitions to reading groups and builder communities.

Today's Patch Expo gives you a small glimpse into that growing ecosystem, built and run by Patch alumni and experience the opportunities available for young people today.



Scan for Guide





Co-roc - Lorcan and Mac

Co-Roc is a configuration-control platform for rocket teams, linking designs, simulations, tests and launch data to the exact version of the rocket being built. The platform has already been tested on real rockets with over 1,000 student users. As well as this, they used it to build 3 of their own rockets during the programme.



SkillScene - Sarah and Aoife

A careers platform helping young people overcome the entry-level experience gap through practical opportunities, mentors, CV support and interview preparation. The team has spoken to more than 200 young people, recruiters and HR professionals while developing the platform.



RainDev - Aadila and Rachel

An all-in-one STEM platform helping young people discover opportunities, build practical skills and connect with mentors and peers. RAINDev brings together learning, projects and thousands of opportunities, with a focus on making access less dependent on where someone lives.



Spoonite - Ananyaa, Iniya and Kaisín

A multisensory spoon that changes how food is perceived using aroma, flavour and texture technology. Inspired partly by reduced taste in space, Spoonite could support people with restricted or repetitive diets and has already been demonstrated with a working prototype.



Studytok - Seán and Paddy

An interactive revision platform for Irish secondary-school students combining past papers, adaptive learning, AI marking and classroom tools. Built before Patch and developed further this summer, StudyTok has now passed 250,000 downloads.



ArcTek - Colm, Paula, Srinidhi and Dónal

A computer-vision system that helps robotic welders identify weld seams without lengthy manual programming. Designed for high-mix, low-volume manufacturing, ArcTek aims to make robotic welding more accessible to smaller fabrication businesses.



Grooves - Owais

A social platform for discovering, rating and discussing music, aiming to become the Letterboxd of albums. Grooves has already reached 20,000+ users and millions of views across social media, with a growing community built around music discover.



Ranga - Jack and Sarah

A classroom operating system designed for Irish primary schools. Teachers get one place to manage their classroom, while each child gets a simpler interface adaptable for needs including dyslexia, translation and dictation. 7 schools will pilot Ranga this September.



Relay - Ben, Odin, Kelvin and Basil

Relay recreates online chess games on a physical chessboard in real time using an autonomous robotic system beneath the board. While developed through chess, the underlying technology demonstrates new possibilities for teleoperation, robotics and physical-digital interaction.



Bloom - Aoibheann, Deepta and Holly

A low-cost blood-loss monitor designed to help detect postpartum haemorrhage earlier during Caesarean sections. BLOOM uses optical sensing to measure haemoglobin in surgical fluid and has been developed through a working prototype and extensive clinician feedback.



Equilibrium - Moaz, Tommy, James and Beatrice

A smart building-management system that makes existing HVAC systems autonomous. Custom sensors track temperature, humidity, CO₂ and occupancy while predictive control optimises the building response. Around 50 sensors are already live across Dogpatch Labs.



Heron Labs - Alex, Fionn, James and Daragh

Heron Labs is building Agami, a semi-autonomous boat designed to help locate where pollution enters a river. The roughly €400 prototype measures changes in water quality, helping researchers narrow down where further investigation is needed.



Scaling Ethereum - Conall

Research into a new Ethereum execution architecture using zero-knowledge proofs to process transactions in parallel. The proposed approach could dramatically increase blockchain throughput while maintaining decentralisation, security and compatibility with Ethereum's existing consensus layer.



JakeAI - Ethan

An AI customer-support teammate that learns how a company works before speaking to customers. Jake answers using company knowledge and previous conversations, while recognising when human judgement is needed and handing over the full context. Currently piloting with 2 companies.



Hackwatch - Aidan and Ross

HackWatch detects cyber attacks in real time and uses AI to investigate vulnerabilities, identify their root cause and generate secure code fixes. By reducing the time between an attack and a solution from days to minutes, it helps organisations respond to threats far more effectively.



Aoibheann Daly | 16 | Kerry

Aoibheann has a passion for AI, neuroscience, and entrepreneurship. She developed an explainable AI system for diffuse glioma prognosis and a cervical cancer detection model for low-resource settings. This work led to her win at the Stripe Young Scientist and Technologist of the Year 2026. Outside of STEM, she loves art and playing camogie.



Dónal Ó Conalláin | 20 | Leitrim

Donal studies Engineering in Trinity. He is passionate about welding and runs his own fabrication company at home in Leitrim. He is Head of Manufacturing with Formula Trinity, helping to build a race car to compete in Formula Student UK this summer. He previously designed the exhaust manifold for the powertrain department.



Beatrice Cesonyte | 17 | Cork

Beatrice represented Ireland three times in the European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics. She has a passion for programming and all things IT, and entered Young Scientist with her project "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Manosphere". Alongside software, she is into F1 (especially Max Verstappen), rowing and tennis.



Paddy Corcoran | 17 | Tipperary

Paddy co-built Studytok alongside Seán, an educational platform that makes studying as engaging as social media and has passed 220K+ downloads. He is drawn to startups, software, and digital product design, with a particular focus on product growth, internet culture, and building things with real-world impact.



Seán Cahill | 18 | Tipperary

Seán co-created Studytok with Paddy and won the innovation award at the Student Enterprise Programme national finals. He travelled to San Francisco through Emergent Ventures funding to meet founders and builders, and hopes to study robotics in the US. His interests sit at the intersection of software engineering, startups, and space.



Kaisín Manning | 19 | Wicklow

Kaisín studies Mechatronics Engineering and adores rockets, robots and design. She has competed in robowars and won the 2024 Coolest-Projects Advanced Programming category using OpenGL. She is currently designing and building a parachute for the Eirspace team. Her next goal is to secure a radio license for creative rocket payloads.

2026 Cohort



Aoife Fadian | 17 | Sligo

Aoife is interested in music and business. Her research using sheep wool as a sustainable strengthening agent for concrete won Overall Best Group at the Stripe Young Scientist 2026. Outside of STEM, she holds 8 All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil medals across various instruments, won Siansa Gael Linn and is the current U18 uilleann pipes champion.



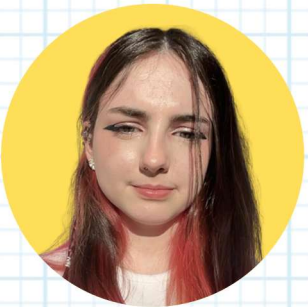
Holly Feehan | 20 | Cork

Holly is on a European Solidarity Corps gap year and is passionate about space law. Her research into globalisation was recognised at the Young Sociologist of the Year. A multi-time Texaco Art awardee, she is currently building a kinetic underframe for projection mapping to bridge her love for art and hardware. She's an avid 35mm film photographer.



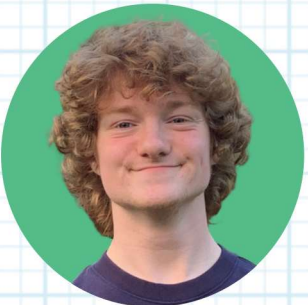
Aidan O'Sullivan | 20 | Kerry

Aidan is an electrical engineer and the founder of Reeward, a QR-based loyalty network for local businesses. He previously built LC GPT, an AI study platform for Irish students, a voice AI ordering assistant, and runs a seasonal sauna business in Ballinskelligs. He attended Y Combinator's AI Startup School and plays Gaelic football.



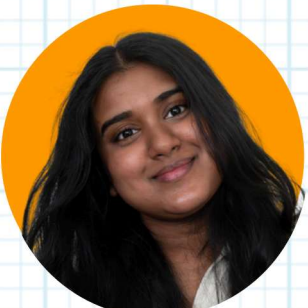
Rachel Keaveney | 20 | Mayo

Rachel has worked on projects ranging from a predictive maintenance model for wind turbines using machine learning, to Instruct.Web, a platform supporting people who struggle with daily routines due to disability. Before switching to computer science, Rachel spent a year studying art education. She loves to draw and work on projects.



Colm Rea | 17 | Cork

Colm is passionate about engineering and robotics. He founded a VEX Robotics club and lead it to the number 1 rank in Europe and on to the World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. He loves Inline Hockey and has competed with Team Ireland twice. He is Vice-Chair of his school's debating club and in his free time loves reading and film.



Iniya Baskaran | 19 | Dublin

An Interaction Design student at NCAD, Iniya has won the IADT 24 Hour Design Challenge two years running, earned a place in the Top 100 Youth Ideathon, and reached the RISE finals. A theatre kid at heart, her design interests span digital interactions, physical computing, gender equality, and community-focused design.

2026 Cohort



Fionn Crinion | 17 | Dublin

Fionn builds engineering systems focused on sports and performance. He developed a pacing light system now used by Athletics Ireland and even some Olympic athletes. He is interested in electronics, embedded systems, and product design, and enjoys developing practical technology that can be tested and used in real-world scenarios.



Aadila Aliu Iyamah | 18 | Mayo

Aadila is interested in engineering, biology, and AI. She created an app using sign language recognition, eye-tracking, and a flex-sensor glove to support people with speech disabilities. She has taken part in many science competitions and is a member of the National Youth Assembly. Outside STEM, she plays badminton and camogie.



Darragh Evanson | 19 | Dublin

Darragh studies engineering with management. He led the hardware design of a 3D-printed digital stethoscope, utilising AI for arrhythmia diagnosis and classification, winning national awards at Google London. He has independently designed and manufactured a custom wheelchair lift. In his free time, Darragh is an avid rock climber.



Sarah Hurley | 17 | Limerick

As an established team leader, Sarah loves solving real-world problems with tech & creative approaches. She has earned 7 STEM-Related awards and enjoys coding, UI design and software development. She also has a passion for multimedia creation and is a published photographer and videographer with multiple video editing related awards.



Odin Glynn-Martin | 16 | Mayo

Odin is a researcher focused on machine learning and AI systems. His projects include distributed LLM bias-detection systems, computer vision tools for bird conservation research, and large-scale RSS indexing infrastructure. Outside of this, he photographs the Irish countryside and builds custom photography software and web tools.



Paula Brüdrich | 21 | Dublin

Paula is the powertrain lead of the Formula Trinity and a Trinity College Scholar. She has previously worked in hardware development for logistics drones. She is especially interested in how tech can help manage chronic illness, mainly through the food industry. In her free time she works on embroidery and taking aerial silks classes.

2026 Cohort



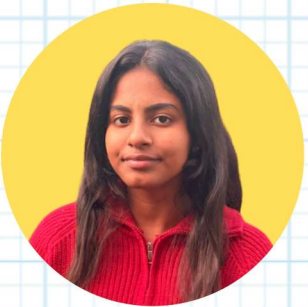
Deepta Suresh | 17 | Galway

Deepta has a strong passion for biology, medicine, and medical technology. She recently filed a patent for an innovative insulin-eluting stent to treat diabetes, and has won multiple awards for that project as well as for her research on artificial sweeteners and the gut microbiome. She loves walking, painting, and sport.



Alex O'Loghlen | 17 | Dublin

Alex has participated in Model United Nations competition nationally and internationally, winning awards in both. He established a STEM club in his school where he is building a drone. He is currently working on a lab technician robotic arm and a snake robot that uses lateral undulation to move. He also enjoys basketball and running.



Srinidhi Karthik | 16 | Westmeath

Srinidhi enjoys drawing, 3D modelling, and debating. She is a 3x 1st in category at YSTE, with projects on bias in AI, a mathematical optimisation problem, and forgetting & alignment drift in machine learning. She is researching a NeuroAI project focused on brain connectivity networks and will represent Ireland at the STEM Racing World Final.



Tommy Byrne | 20 | Laois

Tommy is a Computer Science student keen on embedded systems and free and open source software. He is part of Formula Trinity, working with both the Hardware and ADS teams. He also serves as DU Pirate Party's Events Officer. In his spare time he can be found bouldering, learning Japanese, and competing in the Overwatch IECS league.



Kelvin Gao | 20 | Cavan

Kelvin is an electrical engineer and an All Ireland Scholar with a fiery passion for an autonomous and cleaner future. Kelvin has co-authored a paper on autonomous maintenance that won 2nd in EirGrid's Cleaner grid competition for wind energy. He will compete with UCD's UAV team working on autopilot after winning 2 awards last year.



Mac O'Brien | 18 | Wicklow

Mac is interested in entrepreneurship, sales, and digital business. He has built and scaled multiple ventures, including AGNT, developing experience in leadership, operations, and scaling service-based businesses. Outside business, he is interested in history and psychology, and is confident he'll become president of Ireland in 2046.

2026 Cohort



Lorcan Grimes | 22 | Tyrone

As Head of Rocketry for Northern Ireland's largest student team, aerospace engineering student Lorcan, manages a £15K contract to oversee design, manufacture, and testing of a launch vehicle and climate science payload. He achieved the highest possible grade in the European Space Agency's Space Standards course and is skilled in aircraft design.



Owais Korejo | 19 | Dublin

Owais built and scaled an e-commerce poster business to over \$110K in sales before founding Grooves, a music-reviewing app that has already reached thousands of users and millions of views across social media. He was a finalist in the Irish Programming Olympiad and enjoys reading about business, psychology, philosophy and theology.



James O'Sullivan | 17 | Cork

James has interests in mathematics, robotics, and engineering, as well as film and cycling. He received an Honourable Mention in the Irish Mathematical Olympiad and ranked #1 in Europe in VEX Mid-Season Robotics. His projects include smart glasses that use hearing aids as speakers and a voice- and gesture-controlled computer interface.



Ben Hewston | 20 | Dublin

Ben's a builder. He's designed and installed a home automation system, including 30+ custom smart light switches. At 14, he built a fully furnished garden room that now serves as his workshop for electronics, 3D printing and software projects. He also helps run one of Ireland's biggest Junior Hockey Clubs of over 750 children.



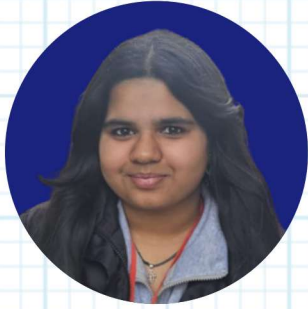
Moaz Refaei | 21 | Dublin

Moaz is interested in analog design, embedded systems, and sustainable engineering. He interned at Stryker, serves as avionics lead on UCD's UAV team, and led ElecSoc through its biggest year on record as president. He has won awards for his research on autonomous underwater vehicles for offshore renewable energy inspection.



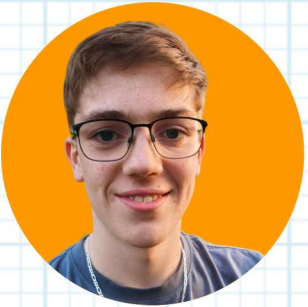
Basil Amin | 17 | Dublin

Basil is a 5th year student and is, at heart, an engineer, creator, and scientist. His work includes a thrust vectored model scale rocket as his first project, which he presented on national television, and a smart insole to reduce the complications of a neurodiabetic disorder using hybrid AI analysis. Basil enjoys shooting, Arabic poetry, and politics.



Ananyaa Rahate | 18 | Antrim

Ananyaa researches sustainable aviation, atmospheric turbulence, and structural engineering, including work exploring a novel aviation method that could reduce carbon emissions by up to 97%. An Arkwright Engineering Scholar, she also developed an IoT smart home system for dementia and designed disaster-resilient homeless shelters.



James Harcourt | 17 | Dublin

James recently created GlucoBit, a medical device to help people with Type 1 Diabetes for which he has since received funding to bring the device to market. James has a strong business acumen with an interest in embedded systems, software development, and 3D design. James swims competitively and is an avid reader.



Ethan Quarry | 20 | Cork

Ethan has built multi-agent systems at startups backed by Sequoia & EF including Popcorn and Naviro, where he developed features used by organisations including Blockchain Capital. A former Munster rugby player and nationally ranked sprinter, he has also attended YC Startup School in SF and won a HackEurope prize



Conall O'Reilly | 17 | Meath

Conall is a neo-cypherpunk with a deep interest in decentralised systems and a strong sense of technological justice. He builds on the Bitcoin network and researches the Ethereum protocol, drawn to the cryptography, economics, and governance questions underneath them. He describes himself as a never-ending void of curiosity.



Ross Gavin McGirl | 19 | Dublin

Ross is a penetration tester and full-stack developer with a strong interest in ethical hacking, programming, and security automation. He began freelancing in penetration testing at 16 and now works in security tooling in a company. He is currently exploring how AI can be applied to building more adaptive and self-healing security systems.



Jack McCormack | 17 | Tipperary

Jack has a huge passion for technology, hurling, and making things around him better. He spent a year and a half designing and building a new type of wind turbine for urban areas which has won multiple awards in YSTE and SciFest. He has an enormous interest in sustainability and using engineering to make our world better for future generations.

