

AINTERN · VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Your first day starts **now.**

Everything you need to walk into Meridian Retail Co., ship real work, get reviewed like a professional, and earn a certificate someone can actually verify.

A real AI manager

Every brief counts

A live defence

A verifiable certificate



START HERE

What you're walking into

Altern isn't a course. There are no lectures and nothing to memorise. You are joining a company as an intern, and you will be given real work by a manager who reads what you write and tells you the truth about it.

The company is **Meridian Retail Co.** — a simulated business with real data, real problems and a team who will talk to you. Your manager is **Priya Nair**, Head of Insights. She assigns your briefs, reviews everything you submit against a professional rubric, and either approves it or sends it back to sharpen. She is not a script. She reads your actual words.

What you'll walk away with

You'll produce	Which means
Five approved deliverables	Actual work products — a pricing memo, a churn analysis, a competitor brief — that you can show anyone.
A reviewed track record	Every attempt scored on insight, use of data and clarity, so you can see yourself improve.
A live defence	A conversation where you explain your own work out loud to the Chief Commercial Officer.
A verifiable certificate	A public link anyone — a recruiter, a professor — can open to confirm it's real.

The one rule that matters

You may use AI to help you think. You may not use AI to think for you. Priya will ask you about your own work, and the certificate is defended out loud. If the analysis isn't yours, that conversation goes badly — not because you'll be caught, but because you won't have anything to say. **The AI drafts, you decide.**

How long it takes

Typically four weeks, at your own pace. Most briefs take 30–60 minutes of real thinking. You can do them in the evening, on a weekend, or in a lab session — the platform doesn't mind, as long as the work is yours.

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SECTION 1

Before you begin

Five minutes of setup saves you an hour of confusion later. Have these ready.

- 1 Your cohort code**
A short code your teacher gives you, like `MERIDIAN26`. It puts you in the right batch so your teacher can see your progress. If your teacher sent you a **link** instead, even better — the code fills itself in.
- 2 A Google account**
Any Gmail works. You'll use it once, in Section 4, to get your free AI key. **No payment card is needed anywhere in this programme.**
- 3 A laptop or desktop, ideally**
Everything works on a phone, but you'll be writing 150–250 word business memos. A keyboard makes that much less painful. For the voice conversations, a laptop or an Android phone gives you live speech; on an iPhone you'll type instead — both are fine and neither is graded differently.
- 4 Your real full name**
Whatever you type at signup is **printed on your certificate**. Use the name you'd want a recruiter to see — not a nickname, not lowercase.

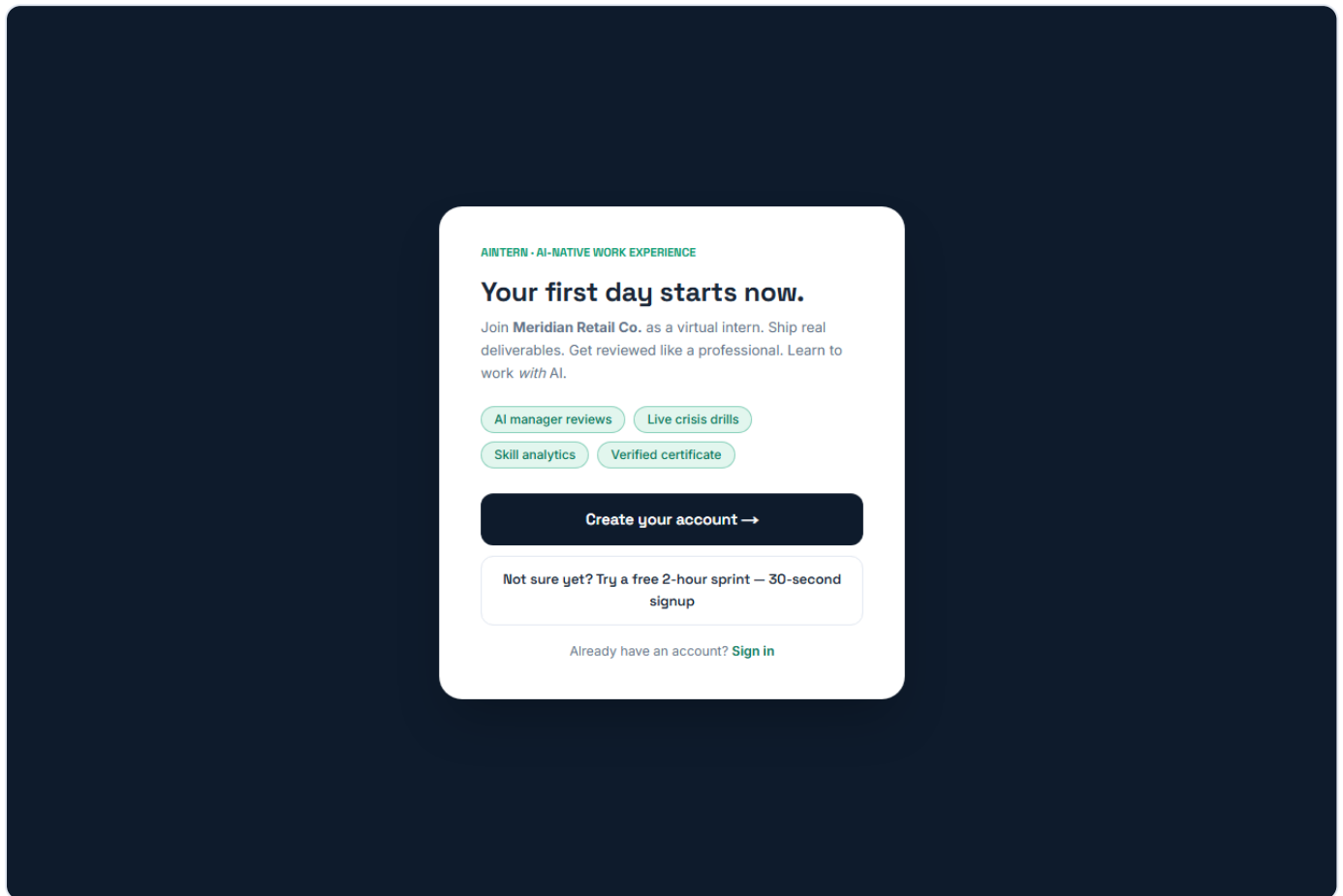
About the AI key — read this now, not later

Every intern brings their own free Google AI key. This is not a paywall — it costs nothing and takes two minutes. It exists so that **your** work gets reviewed the second you submit it, instead of waiting in a queue behind thirty classmates. Section 4 walks you through it. You cannot start the internship without it, so do it first.

SECTION 2

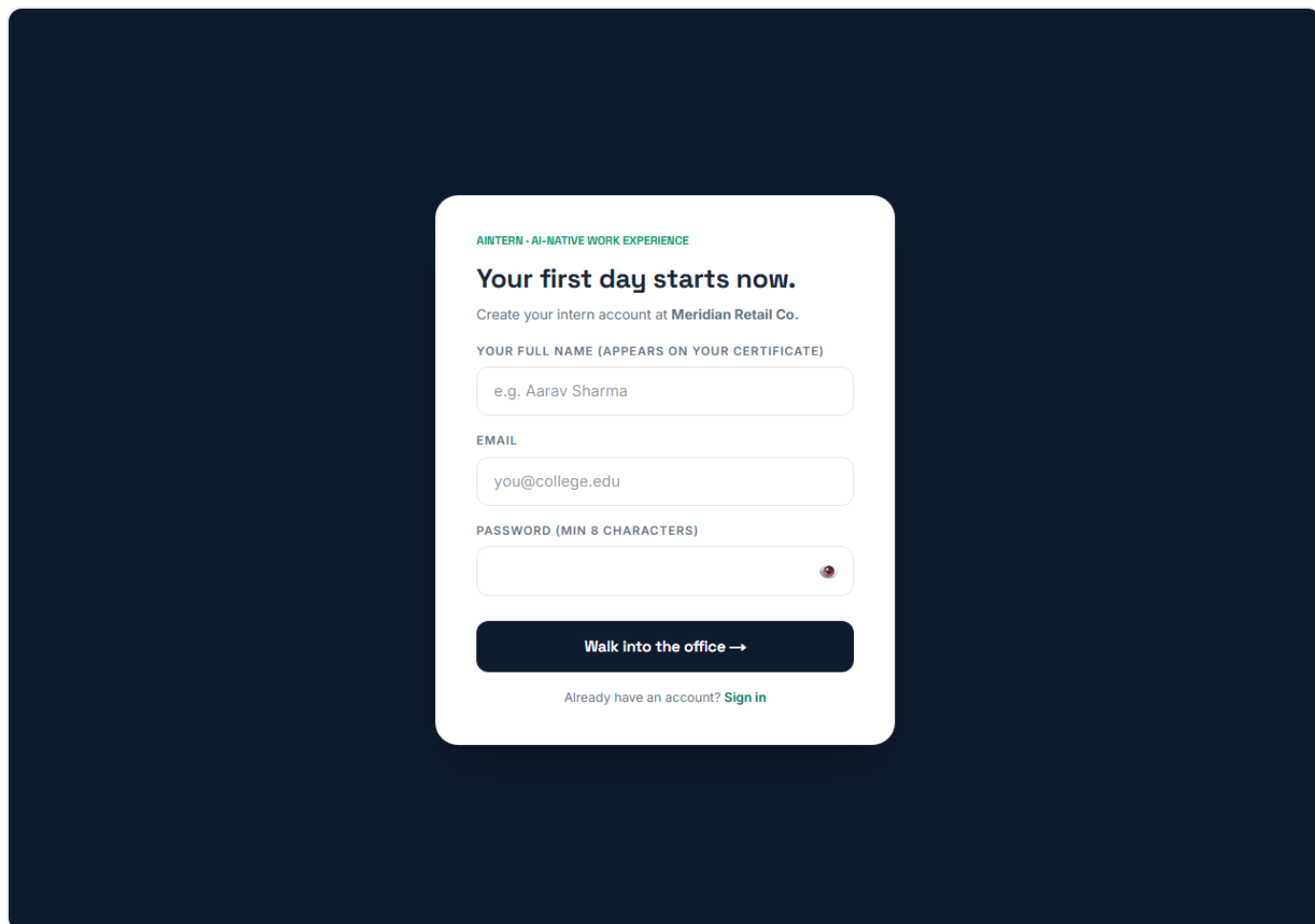
Create your account

Go to **aintern.tech** and choose **Create your account**.



The front door at aintern.tech. If you'd rather try before committing, the second button gives you a free two-hour taster.

You'll be asked for three things. Take thirty seconds over the first one.



AINTERN - AI-NATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE

Your first day starts now.

Create your intern account at Meridian Retail Co.

YOUR FULL NAME (APPEARS ON YOUR CERTIFICATE)

EMAIL

PASSWORD (MIN 8 CHARACTERS)

Walk into the office →

Already have an account? [Sign in](#)

Your full name appears on your certificate exactly as you type it here.

If your teacher sent you a link

A link like `aintern.tech/join/MERIDIAN26` takes you straight here and quietly remembers your cohort code, so you won't have to type it later. Use the link if you have one.

Press **Walk into the office**. Check your email for a confirmation message and click the link inside it. If it hasn't arrived in two minutes, look in your spam folder — that's where it usually is.

SECTION 3

Join your cohort

Two questions, and then you're in.

Which door are you walking through?

You'll be asked whether you're **a student** or **a working professional**. Pick student. (The professional door runs the same briefs but grades them to a senior standard — your teacher will have told you if that's what you want.)

What are you studying?

Choose your stream — Commerce & Business, Technology, Media & Communication, Science, or Explore everything. This just puts the most relevant internship tracks at the top of the list. Nothing is hidden; there's a **show all tracks** link if you want the full shelf.

Your cohort code and your track

Type the code your teacher gave you, then pick the track you want. The track decides which deliverables Priya assigns you — Business Analytics is different work from Digital Marketing. Choose the one that matches what you actually want to get better at.

The code isn't optional

Without the right cohort code you won't appear on your teacher's dashboard, which usually means your work won't count toward your marks. If the code is rejected, check for typos and extra spaces first, then ask your teacher — don't just pick a different one.

Press **Walk into the office** and you're an intern at Meridian Retail Co.

Set up your free AI key

Two minutes, no payment card, and you'll never wait in a queue for a review.

Priya, Vikram and your Copilot all run on Google's Gemini AI. Every intern brings their own free key so that everybody's work is reviewed instantly and independently. Here's exactly what to do.

- 1 Open Google AI Studio**
Go to aistudio.google.com/app/apikey and sign in with any Google account. The onboarding screen gives you a direct link, so you can just click it.
- 2 Click "Create API key"**
If it asks you to pick a project, accept whatever it suggests. You may need to agree to Google's terms — that's normal and free.
- 3 Copy the key**
It's a long line of letters and numbers starting with `AIza` or `AQ.` Use the copy button — don't try to select it by hand, it's easy to miss a character.
- 4 Paste it into AIntern and press "Verify & save"**
AIntern immediately checks the key with Google. If it's wrong you'll be told straight away, so you'll never get stuck with a broken key without knowing.

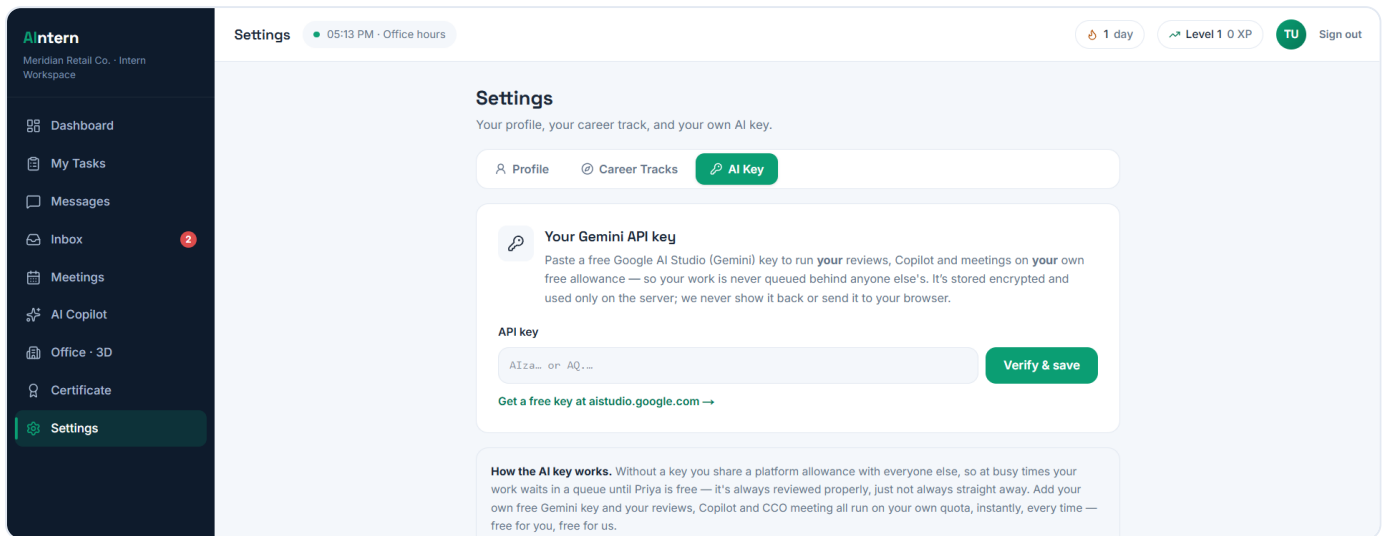
You can't start without it

The **Next** button on this step stays greyed out until your key verifies. That's on purpose — it's the difference between reviews that come back in seconds and reviews that queue behind your whole class. Two minutes now saves you waiting all term.

SECTION 4 • CONTINUED

Where your key lives afterwards

Settings → AI Key, permanently. Come here if it ever stops working.



Settings → AI Key. Paste, press **Verify & save**, and AlIntern checks it with Google straight away.

Is this safe? Yes — and here's exactly why

- Your key is **encrypted** before it's stored, and only ever used on our server.
- It is **never** sent back to your browser and never shown to anyone, including your teacher.
- You can **remove it any time** from Settings → AI Key.
- It costs you **nothing**. A whole internship uses about 18 requests. Google's free tier gives you far more than that every single day.

If it ever stops working

If you delete the key in Google, or it stops working, you'll be told clearly — Priya will say your key was turned down rather than silently failing. Come back here, paste a fresh one, and your work is picked up straight away. Nothing about your progress is affected.

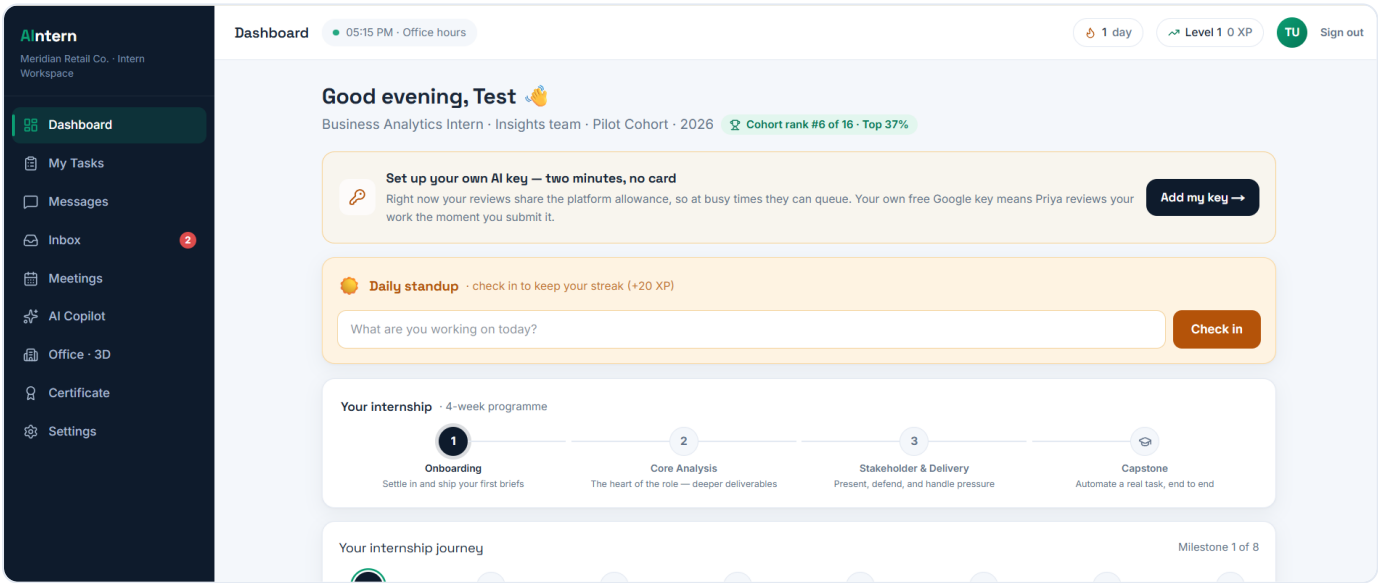
Your first day in the office

A short welcome, then you're at your desk.

Meet the team

Who	What they do for you
Priya Nair Head of Insights · your manager	Assigns your briefs and reviews every deliverable. She's warm, but she doesn't hand out approvals for work that isn't ready.
Vikram Rao Chief Commercial Officer	Takes ten minutes with you after your first approval, and runs your final defence.
Arjun Mehta Senior Analyst	A colleague you can message when you're stuck on the numbers.
Sana Iyer E-commerce Lead	Another colleague — good on customers and the commercial side.

You can message any of them any time from **Messages**.



Your dashboard. The amber banner is the reminder to add your AI key — it disappears once you have.

What's on your dashboard

- **Your programme spine** — the four weeks laid out, so you always know what's next.
- **Milestones** — first brief, first approval, the CCO review, the crisis drill, core done.
- **Your streak and XP** — 100 XP for an approved deliverable, 15 for a revision that moves you forward, and 10 bonus for beating the deadline.
- **Attendance** — a quick daily standup keeps your streak alive. It takes fifteen seconds.

- **Your growth** — once you have a few reviews, the rubric dimensions you're improving on.

Where things live

Menu item	What's there
My Tasks	Your briefs. This is where you'll spend most of your time.
Messages	Priya and the team. Also your AI Copilot.
Meetings	Vikram's CCO review and the crisis drill.
Inbox	Company email — including at least one thing that isn't what it seems.
Settings	Your name, your track, and your AI key.

Your joining letter

HR sends a formal offer letter on day one — it's in your email and at **aintern.tech/letter**. It's a real document you can print. Worth keeping.

SECTION 6

Your first brief, start to finish

Open **My Tasks** and read what Priya has sent you.

My Tasks 05:14 PM · Office hours 1 day Level 1 0 XP TU Sign out

My Tasks
Business Analytics · a 4-week programme · 5 core deliverables + 5 bonus · fully self-paced. Each brief is due 48h after it unlocks — on-time work earns bonus XP.

WEEK 1 OF 4 Onboarding · Settle in and ship your first briefs

TASK 1 Q1 pricing review — Aurora headphone line
~20 min · memo to your manager due in 1d 23h · +10 XP on time

From: Priya Nair
Leadership wants a call on the Aurora wireless headphone line before the festive quarter. One SKU is underperforming. Look at the Q1 data and send me a short memo (120–250 words): **which SKU should we discount or fix, why, and your one recommended action?** Use numbers to back yourself.

SKU	PRICE (₹)	UNITS SOLD	GROSS MARGIN	RETURN RATE
Aurora Lite	2,499	4,180	41%	2.1%
Aurora Pro	5,999	1,920	48%	2.8%
Aurora Max	9,499	310	52%	11.4%

Write your deliverable here, like you are sending it to your manager...

A brief from Priya, the data table underneath it, and the box you write in. The numbers in your table are yours alone.

1

Read the brief properly

There's a data table underneath it. The numbers in it are **yours** — slightly different from the person sitting next to you — so copying their answer will not work, and will read as obviously wrong.

The submit button unlocks four minutes after you open a new brief. That isn't a punishment; it's there because the single most common reason students get sent back is that they answered a question nobody asked. You'll see: *"Real briefs get read twice — submit opens in 3:24."*

2

Write it like you'd send it to a manager

Not like an exam answer. Lead with your recommendation in the first line — executives read the first sentence and skim the rest. Then back it with a specific number from the table. Most briefs want 150–250 words; the word count under the box tells you the minimum.

3

Submit

Priya reads it and comes back in seconds. Your draft is saved automatically as you type, so a closed tab or a dead battery never costs you your work.

What a strong answer actually looks like

Priya scores three things. Aim at them deliberately:

- **Insight** — did you notice the thing that matters, or just describe the table?
- **Use of data** — did you cite the actual figures, or speak in generalities?
- **Clarity** — could a busy manager act on this in thirty seconds?

The fastest way to fail is to write something fluent that could have been written *without reading the data*. Name a number. Commit to a position. Say what you'd do next.

Deadlines

Each brief is due **48 hours** after it unlocks. Late work is still accepted and still graded on its merits — Priya will just note the delay, the way a real manager would. You lose the 10 XP on-time bonus, nothing more.

SECTION 7

What happens after you submit

Approved

Priya writes you 90–140 words on what worked and what would make it stronger, gives you a score on each of the three dimensions, and unlocks your next brief. Read the feedback properly — she remembers your earlier work and will point out when you've improved.

Sent back for a revision

This is **normal and expected**. Roughly a third of first attempts come back. It is not a failure — it's the entire point of having a manager. Read what she asked for, fix that specific thing, and resubmit. There's no limit on attempts and no penalty for using them.

"Priya has your work"

Occasionally you'll see this instead of a review:

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON SCREEN

Submitted — Priya has your work

Priya has a queue of work in front of her right now. Your submission is saved — this usually clears in under a minute.

Checking again in 18s...

Your work is **saved**. Nothing is lost, and you don't need to retype anything or press anything again. The page checks back by itself, and Priya messages you the moment your real review is ready — even if you've closed the tab.

Why we don't just make something up

A lot of platforms would show you an instant fake score here rather than admit the AI was busy. We don't. If a model hasn't actually read your work, you will never be shown a grade for it. A score on this platform always means something read what you wrote.

Priya's follow-up question

Sometimes, before finalising, Priya will ask you one short question about your own submission — something like *"which single number most drove your conclusion, and what would have to change for you to reverse it?"*

If the work is yours, this takes about twenty seconds. Answer it in your own words, name a specific figure, and commit to a position. Drafting in Word and pasting is completely fine — the question is easy when you did the thinking. A vague answer that could apply to any submission is what gets sent back.

SECTION 8

The Copilot, and how to use it honestly

You get an AI Copilot inside the platform. Using it is encouraged. Learning to work *with* AI is half of what this programme is for.

What it's brilliant at

- Explaining a term you don't know — "*what does churn rate actually mean here?*"
- Sanity-checking your reasoning — "*is it fair to conclude X from this data?*"
- Tightening your writing once you've written it.
- Suggesting what you might have missed, before you submit.

What will get you sent back

Pasting the Copilot's answer in as your deliverable. The platform compares your submission to your own Copilot conversation, and if they match too closely Priya caps your Clarity score and asks for it in your own words. She'll say so directly.

The house rule, one more time

The AI drafts, you decide. Use it to think faster, not to avoid thinking. The difference shows up immediately in the defence, where there's nothing to paste from.

A note on AI-written text

We do not run "AI detectors" on your writing, and we never will. They are unreliable and they punish honest students who happen to write well or who draft in Word. Instead we do something fairer and much harder to fake: **we ask you about your own work** — in the follow-up question, and out loud in your final defence. If you did the thinking, you have nothing to manage. If you didn't, no amount of clever wording will help.

One more AI task, deliberately

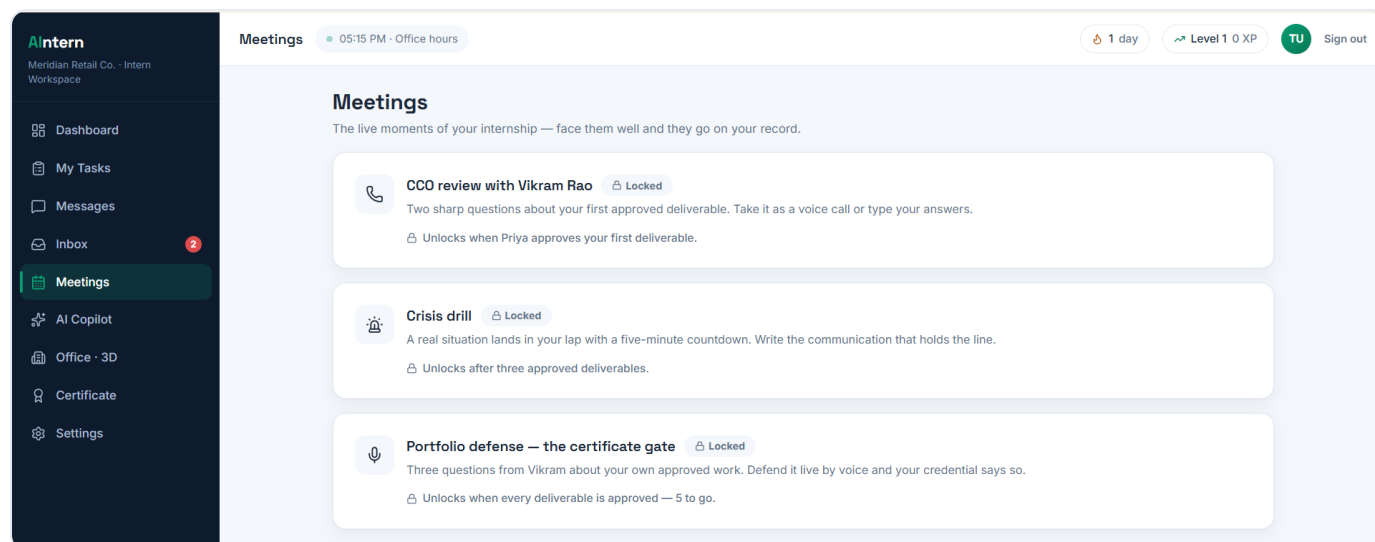
In Week 4 you'll be sent to a **real external AI tool** and asked to do a job with it — and then to report what it got *wrong*. That task is graded on your judgement, not the tool's output. Blindly trusting it scores badly; catching its mistakes scores well. That's the skill employers are actually short of.

SECTION 9

Meetings, standups and the crisis drill

The daily standup

Fifteen seconds on your dashboard: what you're working on. It keeps your attendance and your streak alive, and your teacher can see it. Do it whenever you sit down to work.



The Meetings tab. Each one unlocks as you earn it — the CCO review after your first approval, the crisis drill after three, the defence when everything is approved.

Vikram's ten minutes

After your **first approved deliverable**, the Chief Commercial Officer wants a short conversation about it. This is a gate — your second brief waits until it's done — so don't leave it sitting.

You can take it as a **voice call** or by **typing**. Both count equally. If you're on a laptop or Android, speaking is worth trying: it's the closest thing here to a real conversation with a senior person, and it's genuinely good practice. On an iPhone you'll type, because Safari doesn't support live speech — that's a phone limitation, not a penalty.

How to not be nervous about it

He asks about the deliverable *you just wrote*. Have it open in another tab. Answer in plain sentences. There is no trick question and you cannot fail it.

The crisis drill

At some point something will go wrong at Meridian, on a deadline, with incomplete information. You'll be asked to make a call. This is deliberate: it's the part of real work that no classroom teaches. There's no perfect answer — you're being watched for whether you decide clearly and explain your reasoning.

Your inbox

Company email arrives as you go. **At least one message is a phishing attempt.** Treat your inbox the way you'd treat a real one at a real job. How you handle it is part of the experience.

The capstone and your defence

Week 4 — the capstone

Your final brief sends you out to a real AI tool to do a real job, and then asks you to critique it. It's the hardest task in the programme and the one most worth doing properly. It's also what separates the two certificates — see the next page.

The defence

Before any certificate is issued, you sit down with **Vikram** and talk about your own portfolio. He's read your deliverables. He asks you about them.

What to expect	How to handle it
Three questions about work <i>you</i> submitted	Have your deliverables open. Refer to your actual numbers.
Follow-ups if an answer is vague	Be specific. "The 11.4% return rate" beats "the data showed problems".
A question about your capstone	He will ask. Know what the AI tool got wrong and what you changed.
Voice or typed	Both are accepted — but voice is the only thing that earns Distinction.

This is the moment the certificate becomes worth something

Anyone can submit written work. Explaining it out loud, unprepared, to someone who has read it — that's what makes your credential different from a completion badge. It's also why we can put "defended in a live review" on it and mean it.

You cannot fail the defence into oblivion. If it goes badly you can come back and do it again. What you can't do is skip it.

Your certificate

There are two, and the difference is real.

	Certificate of Completion	Certificate with Distinction
Deliverables	Every brief in your track approved	Every brief in your track approved
Capstone	Required	Required
Defence	Typed	Live, by voice
Upgrade later?	Yes — come back, defend by voice, and the same credential ID upgrades.	

If you take the defence in writing first, you can come back and do it again by voice whenever you like. Your **existing certificate is upgraded in place** — same credential ID, same link. Anyone you've already sent it to will see the stronger version.

Putting it on your CV and LinkedIn

- Use the **verification link**, not a screenshot — the link is the whole point.
- On LinkedIn, add it under **Licenses & Certifications** with the credential ID.
- In an interview, be ready to talk about one deliverable in detail. That conversation is where this actually pays off.

Why the scores stop at 4.8

You'll notice nothing here is ever graded a perfect 5.00. That's deliberate. Real performance reviews leave something to sharpen, and a credential where everyone scores full marks tells a recruiter nothing. A 4.3 on this platform means somebody read your work.

What it looks like to someone checking it

This is the page a recruiter, a professor or a company sees when they open your link.



The public verification page. Anyone with the link can confirm the credential, see the competency scores, and read which deliverables were approved.

Note what's on it: the specific deliverables you produced, a score on each competency, and a line confirming the portfolio was **defended in a live review**. That last part is what most certificates can't say.

SECTION 12

When something goes wrong

What you're seeing	What to do
"Google turned down your API key"	Your key was deleted or regenerated on Google's side. Go to Settings → AI Key, get a fresh key from AI Studio, and paste it in. Your progress is untouched.
"Priya has your work" and it's been a while	Leave the page open — it checks by itself. If it says the daily limit is reached, it resets tomorrow and Priya will message you. Your submission is safe either way.
The confirmation email never arrived	Check spam. Still nothing after ten minutes — tell your teacher; they can see whether the account exists.
My cohort code is rejected	Check for typos and trailing spaces. Codes aren't case-sensitive. If it still fails, ask your teacher to confirm the code — don't guess another one.
The submit button is greyed out	Either you're under the word count (shown below the box), or the four-minute reading timer hasn't finished on a brand-new brief. It only applies to your first attempt.
The 3D office won't load	It's heavy on older devices and will switch to a simpler view by itself after a few seconds. Nothing about your work depends on it.
The voice call won't hear me	Allow microphone access when the browser asks. On an iPhone, live speech isn't available at all — use the typed mode, which is graded identically.
I lost what I typed	You probably haven't. Drafts save automatically — reopen the task and it should still be there.
I picked the wrong track	Settings → Career Tracks lets you switch. Do it early; approved work doesn't carry across.

Still stuck?

Message **Priya** or **Arjun** in the platform if it's about the work itself — that's what they're there for. For anything about your account, your cohort or your marks, ask your teacher.

Last thing

You will get work sent back. Everyone does. The interns who finish this programme well are not the ones who got everything approved first time — they're the ones who read the feedback, fixed the specific thing, and sent it back better. That habit is the actual qualification. The certificate just proves you built it.

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Every credential issued is independently verifiable at aintern.tech/verify/<credential-id>.