

Claude Frontier Academy

Facts

Anthropic announced the Claude Frontier Academy on October 2, 2026. This sheet separates what Anthropic has confirmed from what it has not announced yet, and gives you a preparation checklist for the months ahead.

Confirmed facts

- Funding: a \$100 million commitment from Anthropic.
- Goal: train 10,000 Frontier Deployed Engineers (FDEs) by the end of 2027.
- First program: the Frontier Deployed Engineer Residency, modeled on medical training.
- Entry: employer nomination only, via your Anthropic account team or Partner Account Manager. No public application exists.
- First cohorts: Accenture, Bain, Capgemini, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Deloitte, McKinsey, Morgan Stanley, Novo Nordisk.
- Locations so far: San Francisco, New York and London.
- Target profile: hands-on software engineers with a record of building with LLMs. Prior AI agent experience is not required.
- Base to build on: 175,000+ Claude certifications already earned across 46,000 firms via the Claude Partner Network.

How the residency works

Stage 1, the intensive (multi-day, in person): a simulated enterprise deployment with Anthropic engineers and licensed instructors, ending in a graded practical on a new scenario. Pass to earn the Claude Resident Engineer badge.

Stage 2, the residency (12 weeks): lead a real Claude use case at your own organization, with support from Anthropic engineers and your cohort.

Stage 3, the credential: pass the final assessment to earn the Claude Frontier Deployed Engineer badge. Anthropic expects the first badges in early 2027.

Watchlist: not announced yet

None of the following has been published by Anthropic. Treat any source that states them as fact with caution, and re-check the full guide for updates.

- Any fee for participants or their employers.
- A public application window or open enrolment date.
- A detailed public curriculum or syllabus.
- Cohort sizes and a calendar of future cohorts.
- Locations beyond San Francisco, New York and London.
- Badge expiry, renewal rules, or third-party accreditation.

Skills-prep checklist

You cannot apply today, but you can become the obvious nominee inside your organization. Tick each item as you complete it.

- ☐ Ship a real LLM project into production (integrations, tool use, evaluations).
- ☐ Study the Model Context Protocol and agent design patterns.
- ☐ Practice the business half: use-case selection, security reviews, measurable outcomes.
- ☐ Help colleagues adopt AI: run demos, write internal guides, mentor teams.
- ☐ Identify one named Claude project you could lead for 12 weeks.
- ☐ Ask your Anthropic account team or Partner Account Manager about eligibility.

Key milestones to watch

- Early 2027: first Claude Frontier Deployed Engineer badges expected.
- End of 2027: the 10,000-engineer target date.
- Any time: a published fee, curriculum, or wider enrolment would change who can plan for this credential.

Sources: Anthropic, "Claude Frontier Academy: \$100M to train 10,000 engineers", anthropic.com/news/claude-frontier-academy (Oct 2, 2026); CNBC coverage, Oct 2, 2026; CRN interview with Steve Corfield, Oct 2026.