CV Feedback - Sydney Market

The Hard Truth

You have zero full-time experience and no internships. Sydney's grad market is brutal - you're competing against candidates with 1-2 internships at Big 4, banks, or tech companies. Your projects are strong but they read as academic, not commercial.

Critical Fixes (All CVs)

Remove "In Progress" certifications. They signal nothing. Either complete AWS/Azure certs before applying or delete them entirely.

Clarify the Masters timing. Starting Feb 2026 means you're available now for full-time work - but this isn't clear. Add a brief availability note or remove the future degree until you're enrolled.

Reframe freelance work. "Technical Consultant - Freelance" looks like unemployment dressed up. Be specific: "Contracted by [client name]" or list it under Projects if it was a one-off.

Per-CV Issues

AI Engineer

- Sydney has limited pure AI roles; most are "ML Engineer" or "Data Scientist" at banks/fintechs
- Your CV screams research, not production. Add: model serving, A/B testing, monitoring, latency optimization
- Missing: experience with team codebases, code review, agile/scrum
- Target: Atlassian, Canva, Commonwealth Bank AI labs, smaller ML consultancies

Data Analyst

- **Wrong projects.** Semantic segmentation is irrelevant for DA roles. They want: dashboards, SQL queries, stakeholder reports, Excel/Sheets
- Missing entirely: Tableau, Power BI, Looker, Excel (yes, still matters)
- Your skills list statistical methods but projects don't demonstrate business analysis
- Target: Banks, insurance (IAG, Suncorp), retail analytics, government

Software Engineer

- **Strongest CV.** Projects actually demonstrate engineering skills
- Still missing: collaborative development experience, PR reviews, working in existing codebases

- "Freelance" section is thin - expand or cut
- Target: Canva, Atlassian, SafetyCulture, Rokt, fintechs, agency work

What Sydney Wants

1. **Internship or grad program history** - you don't have this, so projects must compensate
2. **Commercial framing** - "achieved X business outcome" not "implemented Y algorithm"
3. **Team signals** - open source contributions, hackathons, group projects with defined roles
4. **Local network** - Sydney tech meetups, UNSW career fairs, LinkedIn connections at target companies

Immediate Actions

1. Apply to remaining 2026 grad programs (CBA, Westpac, Macquarie, Atlassian, Canva deadlines vary)
2. Get one AWS/Azure cert done in the next 4 weeks - it's a checkbox filter
3. Contribute to 2-3 open source repos with merged PRs before applying
4. Rewrite every bullet point starting with a verb + measurable outcome
5. For DA roles specifically: build a Tableau/Power BI portfolio piece with public data