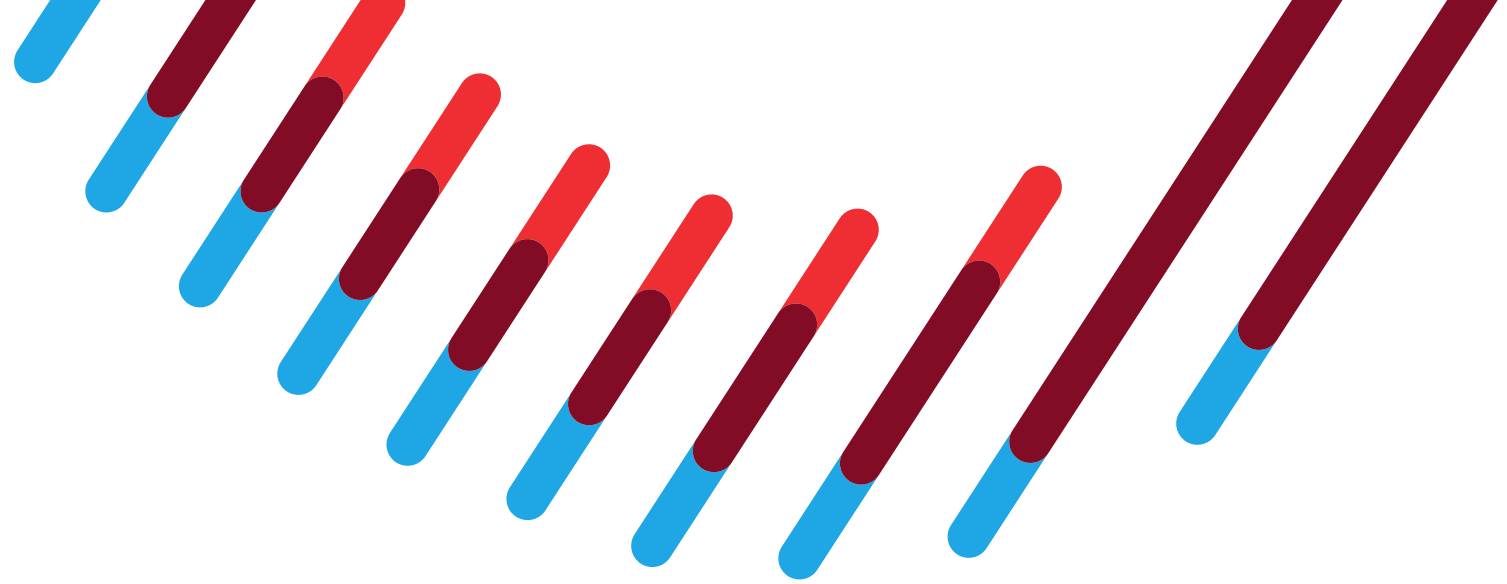




Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Advancing innovative technologies from the University of Chicago

Building on a History of Innovation

University of Chicago

100 Nobel Prizes

10 Fields Medals

Top rankings in more than 10 fields

The Polsky Center

600+ companies launched

\$1.2+ billion funding raised

\$8.9 billion in investments and exits



100 MILLION

to launch first-of-its kind
Pritzker School of Molecular
Engineering



1.5 BILLION

in annual research
with ties to two
DOE national labs



CHICAGO BOOTH

Top-ranked
business
school

A History of Success

Coming from our deep tech accelerators and our New Venture Challenge programs





















600+
COMPANIES

still operating today, mobilizing

\$10+
BILLION















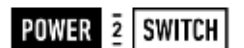


























Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Advancing innovative ideas and technologies from the University of Chicago ecosystem to the world



**Entrepreneurial
Education**



**Venture Support &
Funding**



**Technology
Commercialization
& Licensing**



**Community
Engagement**



Polsky Accelerator Programs

New Venture Challenge

The New Venture Challenge (NVC): The NVC is one of the top-ranked accelerator programs with successful graduates including Grubhub, Braintree/Venmo, and Simple Mills. It has 5 tracks:

- **Edward L. Kaplan, '71, New Venture Challenge** (NVC): The Polsky Center has graduated over 300 active companies through NVC and startups have raised \$2.3+ billion in funding and generated \$15.4+ billion in value. The 2024 NVC Finals awarded \$2+ million in investment to 10 student-run startups.
- **College New Venture Challenge** (CNVC): Started in 2012, the CNVC has enabled college students to turn their ideas into viable businesses. In 2024, seven finalist teams split a prize pool of \$415,000.
- **Global New Venture Challenge** (GNVC): Designed for Executive MBA students in North America, Europe, and Asia. In 2024, teams competed for \$100,000 in investment.
- **Alumni New Venture Challenge** (ANVC): Supports all UChicago alumni who launch early-stage ventures. Teams compete for \$100,000 in investment annually.
- **Social New Venture Challenge** (SNVC): The SNVC has helped jump-start more than 150 companies and nonprofits since 2011 and together, they have raised more than \$165 million in funding and grants.

Program Spotlight: Build / Launch Accelerators

The Build and Launch Accelerators give student teams the opportunity to work intensively on their businesses over the summer. Teams receive access to funding, coaching, space, and programming to help them overcome hurdles of launching a business.

Build Accelerator // Designed to help early-stage ventures develop an MVP and understand their market/customers.

Launch Accelerator | Designed to help later-stage ventures with fundraising, selling, and gaining/demonstrating traction.

Polsky Technology Venture Accelerators

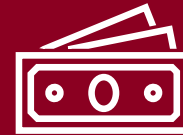
Ventures to Change the World

**Translating deep tech innovations
into startups that bring world-changing
science and technology to market**



ACCELERATORS

Reduce technical and market risk to position innovations for real-world impact
(Vertical specific)



FUNDING

Access a variety of funding sources dedicated to deep tech
(George Shultz Innovation Fund and Harper Court Ventures Fund)

Industry-Specific Approach to Venture Acceleration

The University's strategic investment in deep tech is backed by a philosophy that early-stage companies must focus on de-risking the potential market and technology challenges simultaneously. This determined approach has led to the development of four accelerators designed to leverage the unique depth of faculty and facilities that are part of the UChicago ecosystem. The result will provide founders and their companies with the best opportunities for success. In this way, Polsky Technology Venture Accelerators can impact innovation around the world.

**2021
QUANTUM TECH**

Collaboration with Chicago Quantum Exchange, UChicago, UIUC, Argonne, & P33

<DUALITY>

**2023
DATA SCIENCE & AI**

In partnership with the Data Science Institute



TRANSFORM

**OCTOBER 2023
CLEANTECH**

Collaboration with local and regional institutions, national laboratories, and government



RESURGENCE

**Applications Open in
August!**

Accelerator Elements



Technical Mentors



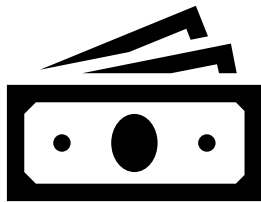
Business Advisors



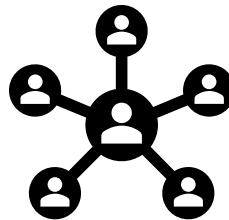
Student Talent



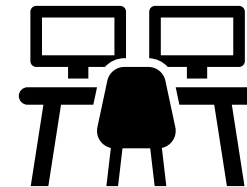
Entrepreneurial Training



Funding (\$25-50K)



Corporate & VC
Networks

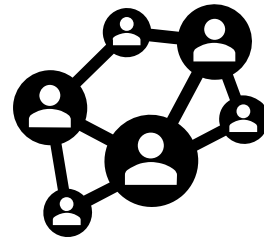
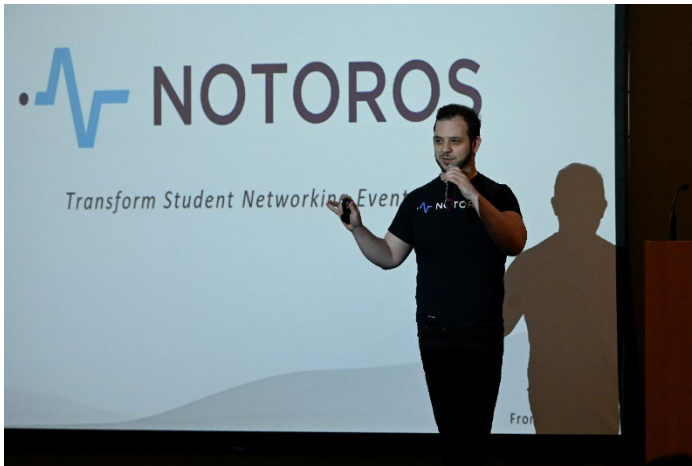


Desk & Co-working space

Student Talent



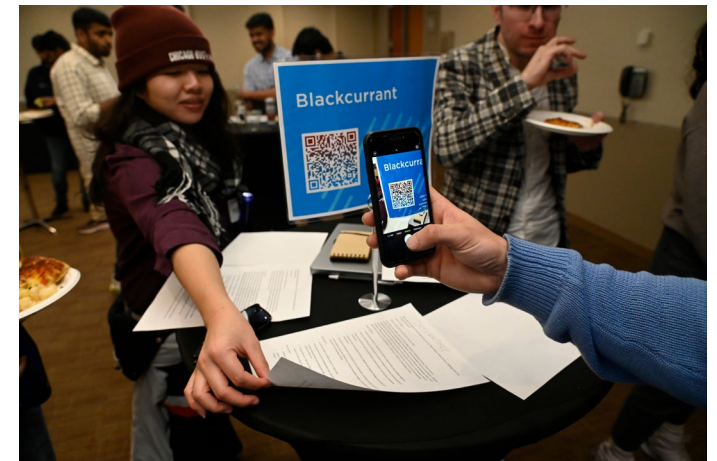
Startup Pitch



Networking



Team Formation



Mentorship and Coaching

Ad-hoc Mentorship

- Polsky mentors
- Engagement on an ad-hoc basis

Technical Advising

- Experts from academia/industry
- Data Scientists, product managers

Business Mentorship

- Seasoned executives/entrepreneurs, VCS
- Hands on guidance

Coaching

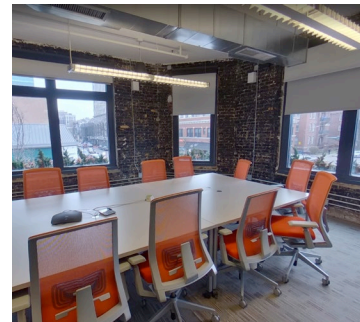
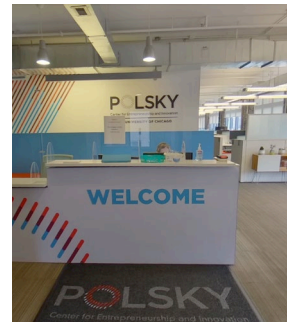
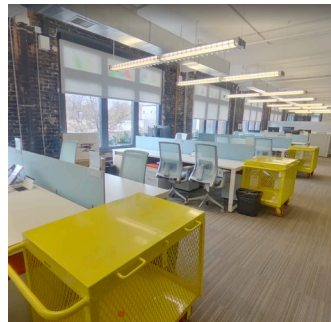
- Staff coaching
- Customer Discovery coaching

Desk, Co-working, and Space



5235 S Harper Court

A major mixed-use development in Hyde Park, includes a 12-story office tower



1452 E 53rd Street

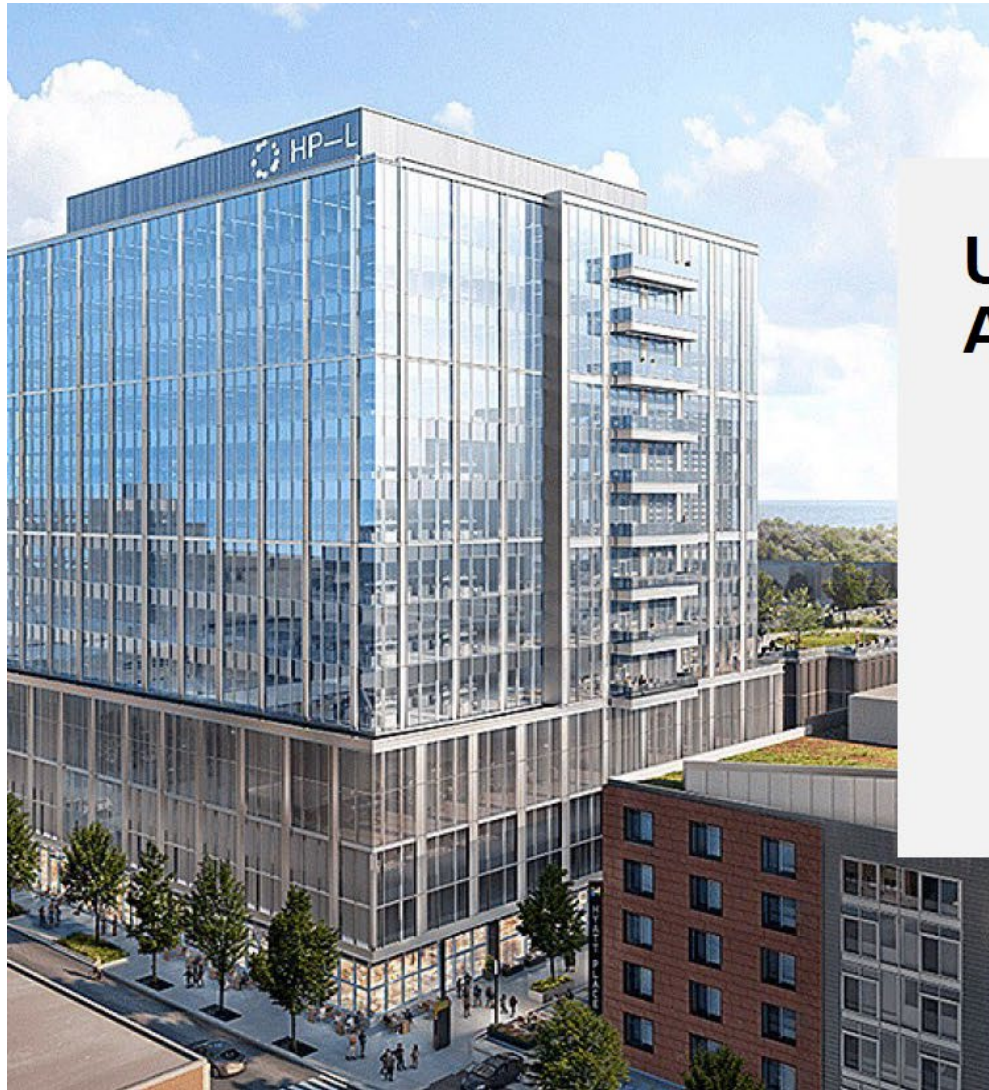
Polsky Exchange, 34,000-sqft startup incubator featuring work and meeting spaces



5201 S Harper Avenue

State-of-the-art advanced sciences building, driven by UChicago's transformative science, engineering, and quantum research

UChicago Science Incubator



UChicago Science Incubator At-a-Glance

- 22,000 square feet
- 5th floor of Hyde Park Labs
- Open to all startups
- Emphasis on life sciences, battery/clean tech, and quantum startups
- Doors open Q2 2025

<DUALITY>

Accelerating Quantum Startups

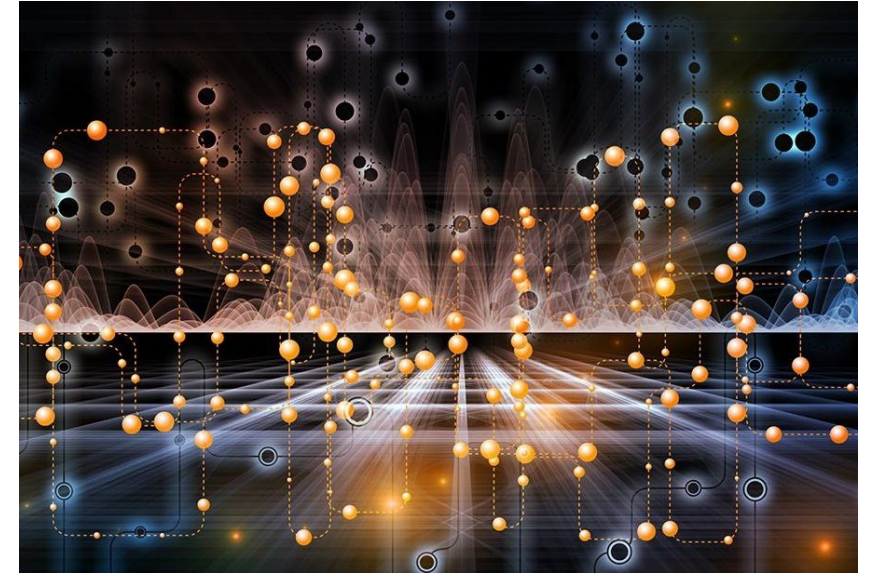
Duality: A Quantum Startup Accelerator



We provide **business and technical resources** as well as an **ecosystem** in which startups can thrive and grow

Duality: Quantum Startup Accelerator Program

- 12-month program
- For **quantum and enabling technology** startups
- For **early-stage** startups
- Startups from anywhere in the **world**
- Committed to fostering **diversity, equity, and inclusion** and supporting startups comprising diverse founders
- Startups **incubate in Chicago** and gain access to our ecosystem and resources



<DUALITY>

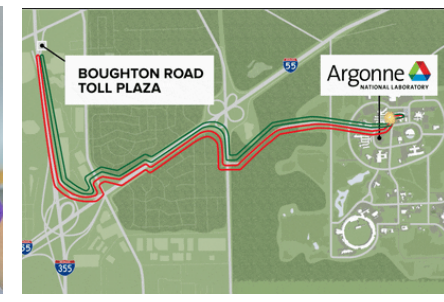
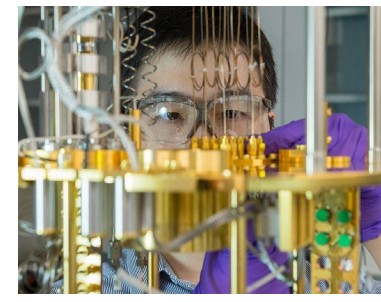
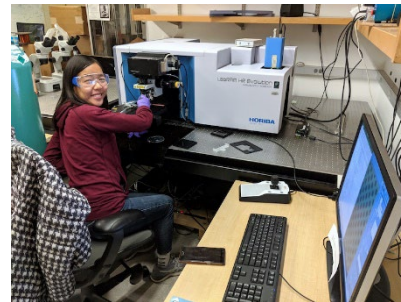
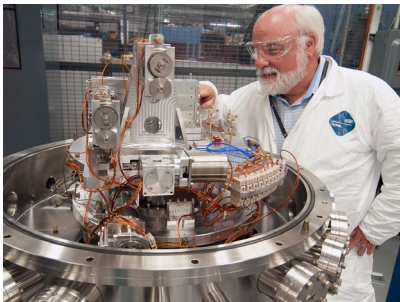
Led by a Powerful Consortium of Partners



State-of-the-Art Facilities*

*Subject to relevant approvals

Computational resources | Materials Growth and Characterization |
Nanofabrication | Quantum Measurements and Testbeds | Prototyping facilities



UChicago MRSEC Facilities, UIUC Holonyak Lab, Argonne Center for Nanoscale Materials, Advanced Photon Source

Quantum Communication Testbed



Pritzker Nanofabrication Facility

Argonne Leadership Computing Facility & NCSA at U of Illinois

And many more at all
partner institutions

Duality is for...



Startups developing hardware- or software-based solutions for:

- Quantum computing
- Quantum communication
- Quantum sensing
- Other enabling technologies (e.g., control electronics, photonics, cryogenics, connectors)

No regional limitation; Startups are welcome from anywhere in the world.

Eligibility Requirements



- Early-stage scalable startups
- Focused on quantum or enabling technology solutions
- Startup can originate from anywhere; must have established or firmly commit to establishing a U.S. legal entity
- The CEO must work full-time with the startup
- At least one founder must commit to residing in Chicago for 12 weeks through the main programing and additional programming as required (approximately 8 weeks throughout the rest of the year).
- Participation in another simultaneous accelerator/incubator is allowable only with advance approval from Duality.



TRANSFORM

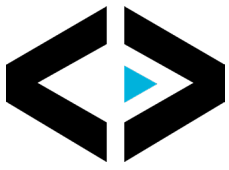
DATA SCIENCE AND AI ACCELERATED





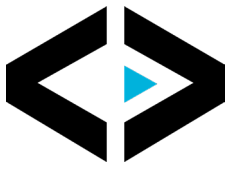
**Full spectrum entrepreneurial
support to accelerate AI and
Data Science Startups**





Partners with Prowess

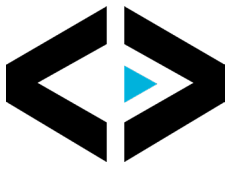




Eligibility

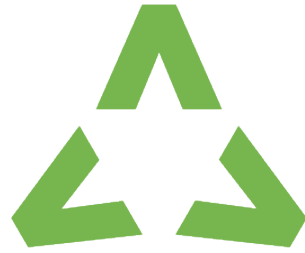
High potential and innovative early-stage startups solving real world problems using data science and AI

- Focus area must be data science/AI technologies, agnostic of verticals
 - Data engineering
 - Data analytics
 - Healthcare/Biotech
 - Cybersecurity and privacy
 - IoT
 - Climate tech and environment
 - Robotics
 - Fintech
 - Blockchain
 - Social impact
 - Transportation
 - And more...



Eligibility

- An established U.S. legal entity at the time of entry to the program
- Partial team in place i.e., a technical lead and business lead etc.
- Founders/CEO must participate for the duration of the program
- Preference for ventures past the idea/concept phase
- Startup must be established within past 3 years
- Open to student and faculty led startups
- *Not* limited to University of Chicago based startups



RESURGENCE

INNOVATING FOR RESILIENCE

Cleantech Accelerator

This 9-month hybrid program is designed to support ventures that are focused on four specific areas of the cleantech industry.



Energy Storage & Infrastructure

Innovative grid-scale storage solutions capable of transporting and modulating dynamic energy flows.

Next Generation Nuclear Solutions

NextGen nuclear breakthroughs enabling a sustainable & stable base-line energy supply.

Hydrogen & Alternative Fuels

Alternative fuels for ultra-high energy density applications where rapid fuel-ups and safe transport are necessary.

Materials Refinement & Process Intensification

New materials/catalysts, recapture of economic minerals and their place in a circular economy; Process modifiers that minimize waste and maximize efficiency.

A Connected Network

Expertise at the University of Chicago and its partner institutions, such as Argonne National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the Marine Biological Laboratory, and others. Through access to this broad network, Resurgence connects innovators with resources to drive meaningful change in the cleantech ecosystem.



Resurgence Fellowship Program

Dedicated effort to connect Resurgence startups and top UChicago talent

- Pilot program launched in 2024 with overwhelming response from the campus community
- Funding and training for student talent to work with your startup on business development
 - Financial Modeling and projections
 - Customer discovery
 - Market opportunity assessment
 - Investor readiness, including data room staging
- Pathway to permanent hires



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO





Eligibility

- Focus area must be in one of the areas this accelerator is designed to support:
 - (1) energy storage and infrastructure
 - (2) next generation nuclear solutions
 - (3) hydrogen and alternative fuels
 - (4) materials refinement and process intensification
- Startup can originate from anywhere; must have an established U.S. legal entity at the time of entry to the program
- Participation in another simultaneous accelerator or incubator is allowable only with advance approval.
- The CEO/CTO must be able to work side-by-side with other cohort members in Chicago and immerse in the regional cleantech ecosystem for designated periods during the 6-month hybrid program.

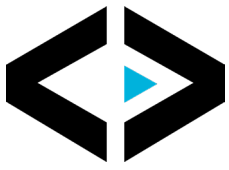
The accelerator will take 1% equity in post-money SAFE for program participation. The \$30K cash investment will have a separate SAFE.



* Includes current cohort

Accelerator Metrics

	 <DUALITY>	 TRANSFORM	 RESURGENCE
# of Startups	20*	23*	11*
# of Cohorts	4* 	4*	2*
Acceptance Rate	18%	20%	25%
Funds Raised	\$30M+ (Non-dilutive+Dilutive)	\$12M+ (Dilutive)	\$18M+ (Non-dilutive+Dilutive)



Learn more about our programs today!



Anna Wislocki

Email: anna.wislocki@chicagobooth.edu

U OF T ENTREPRENEURSHIP



UTE Presentation

GCEC

March 27, 2025

Jon French
jon.french@utoronto.ca



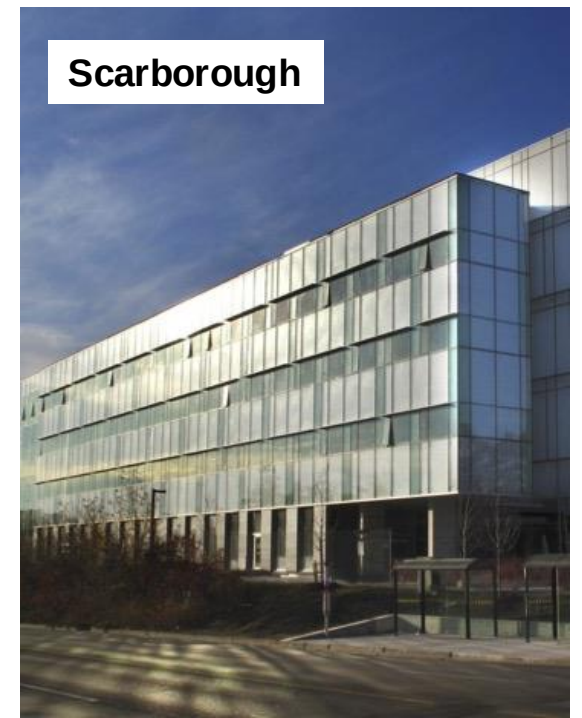


U of T Entrepreneurship wins "Outstanding Contributions to Venture Creation" Award and is highly commended in the "Exceptional Activities in Entrepreneurship Across Disciplines" category at GCEC 2024.

One University, Three Campuses

Founded in 1827, U of T's tri-campus includes:

- **15,000** faculty
- **95,000** students
- **24,700** international students
- **19** faculties and schools
- **174** research centres
- **300** graduate programs,
- **20,700** graduate students
- **250+** partner companies at any given time



U of T is ranked in the **top 50** globally
in 46 subject categories, more than
any other university in the world

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT, 2024



24.5% of U of T students are
part of the first generation in
their families to attend university



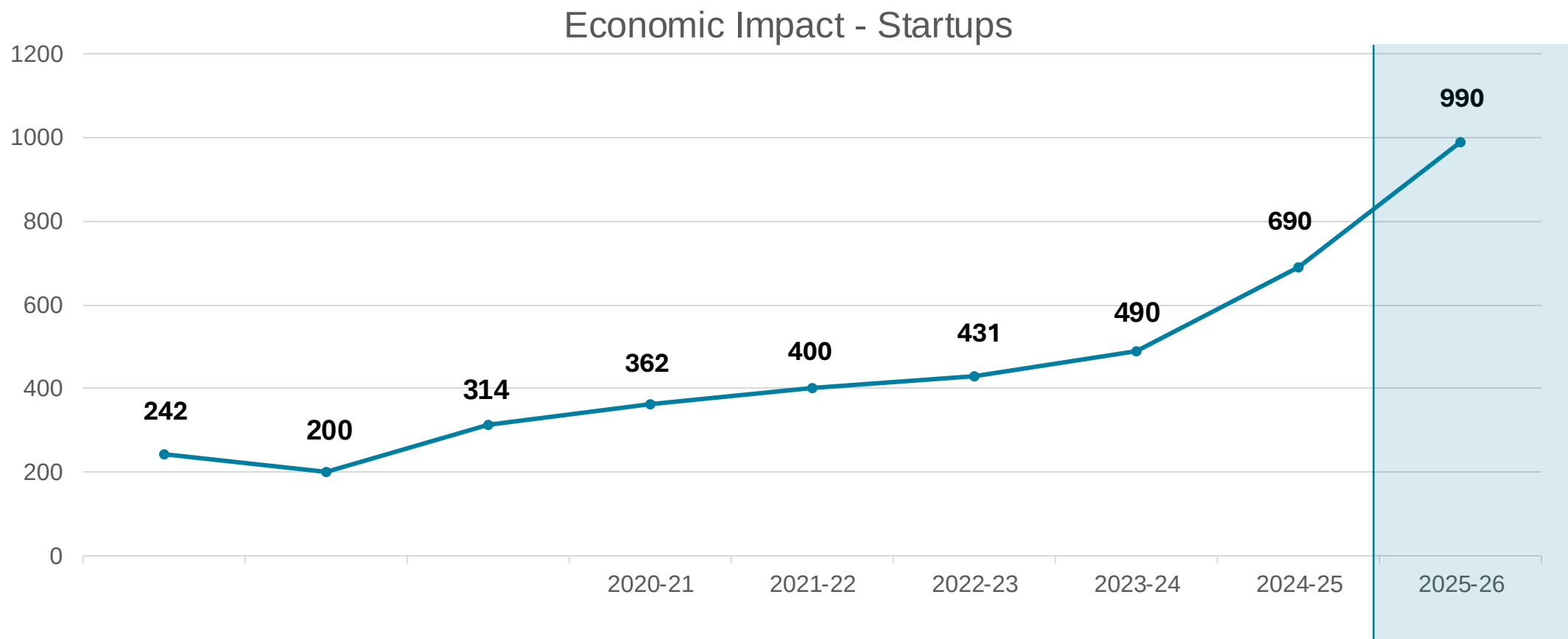
U of T Entrepreneurship ranks in the **top 5** university-managed business incubators in the world

UBI GLOBAL WORLD BENCHMARK STUDY, 2021/22



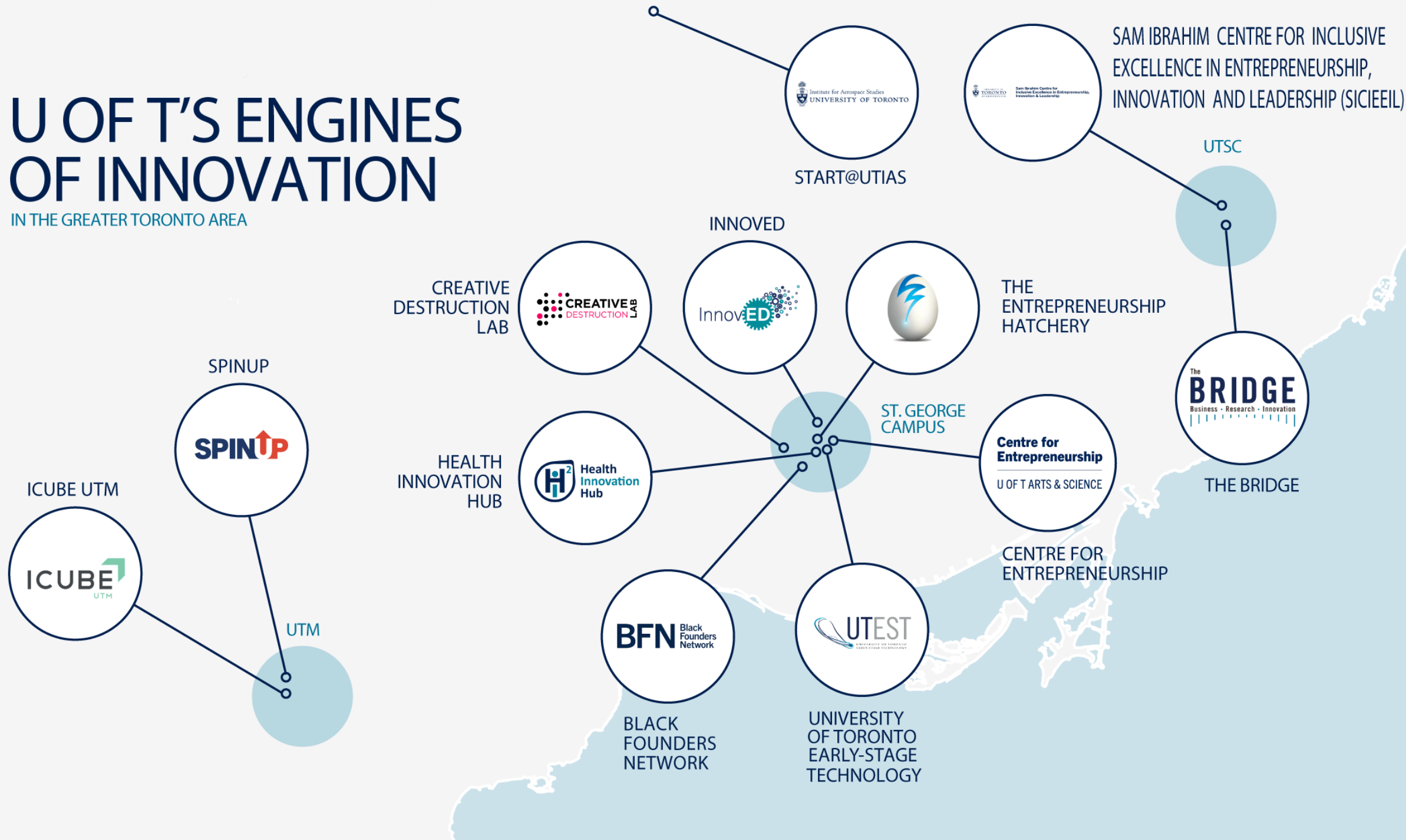
Empowering Innovation at U of T

Harnessing U of T's entrepreneurial ecosystem to drive startup success across the tri-campus



U OF T'S ENGINES OF INNOVATION

IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA



U of T Entrepreneurship (UTE)

UTE's mandate extends across a range of activities:

1. Supports a community of 12+ campus accelerators.
2. Delivers programming and funding.
3. Manages a co-working space.
4. Coordinates institution-wide marketing and communications.
5. Nurtures an entrepreneurial mindset in our students, alumni, faculty and staff.



ONRamp

**Co-working, collaboration and event space
for the U of T Entrepreneurship Community**

- A 5,000 sq. ft. collaboration space for U of T students, alumni, faculty entrepreneurs and others affiliated with campus accelerators
- Located in the Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus on U of T St. George Campus
- Enabling new companies to network with each other, showcase to potential investors, and grow their businesses
- 125+ members, 50+ startups



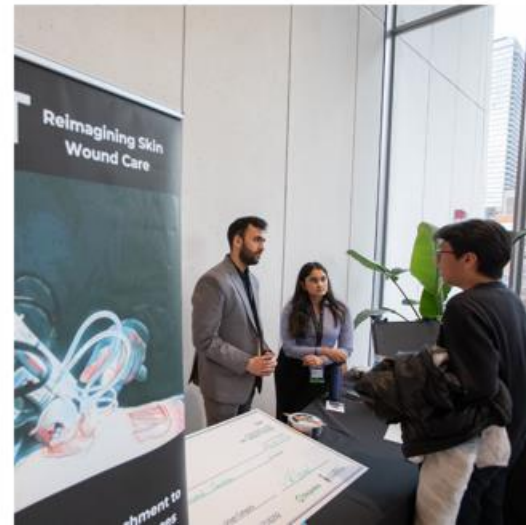
Entrepreneurship Week March 3-7, 2025

- 20 events across three campuses
- Wide-ranging themes: mental health, International Women's Day, IP commercialization and more
- **True Blue Impact Day**
Thursday, March 6
 - 60+ exhibitors
 - Desjardins Startup Prize \$100K+
 - Desjardins Speaker Series



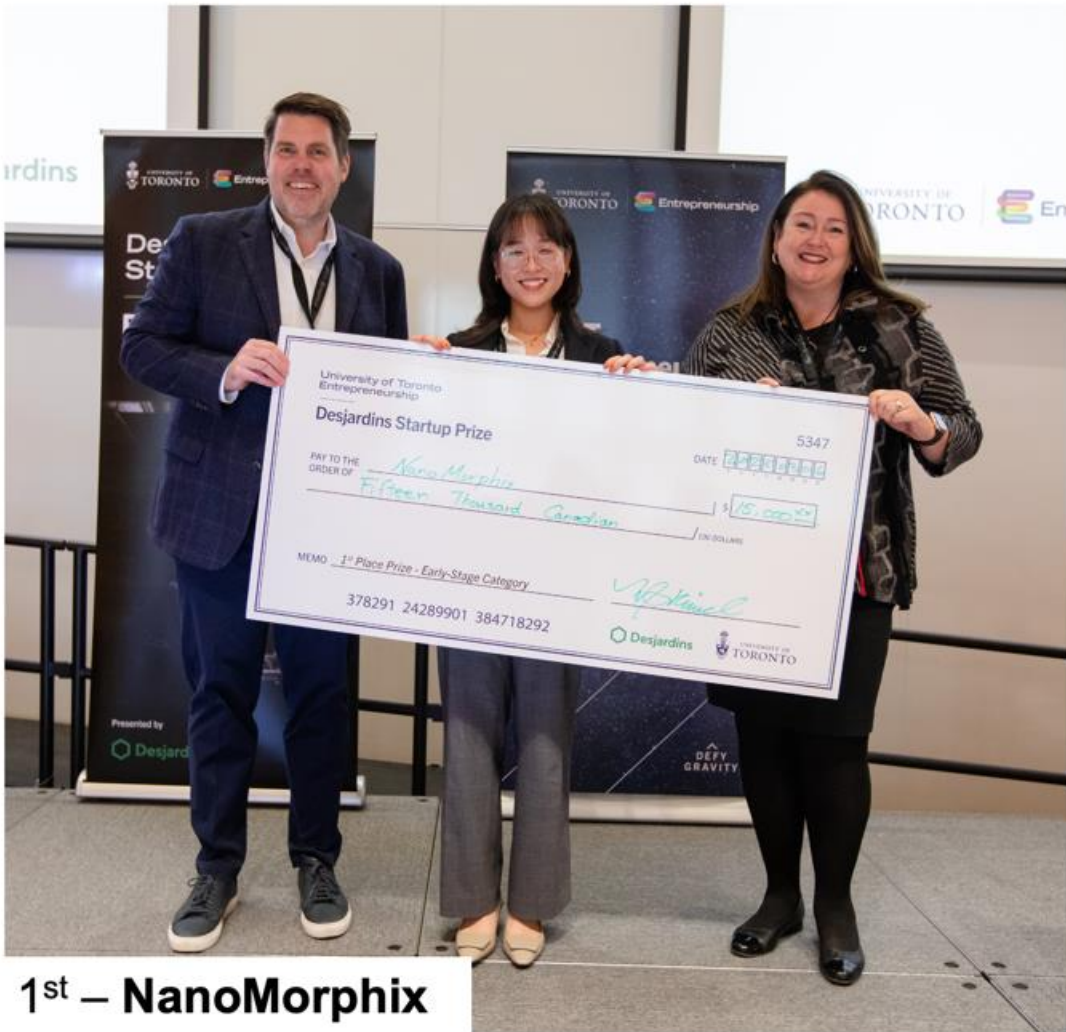
True Blue Expo

- 70+ exhibitors from the startup and innovation ecosystem, including:
 - 45 U of T startups
 - 11 campus accelerators
 - 2 U of T Groups
 - 16 community partners
- 800+ visitors throughout the day
- Startup Marketplace with 15+ B2C startups selling their products
- UTE provided startups with complimentary retractable banners to activate their booths



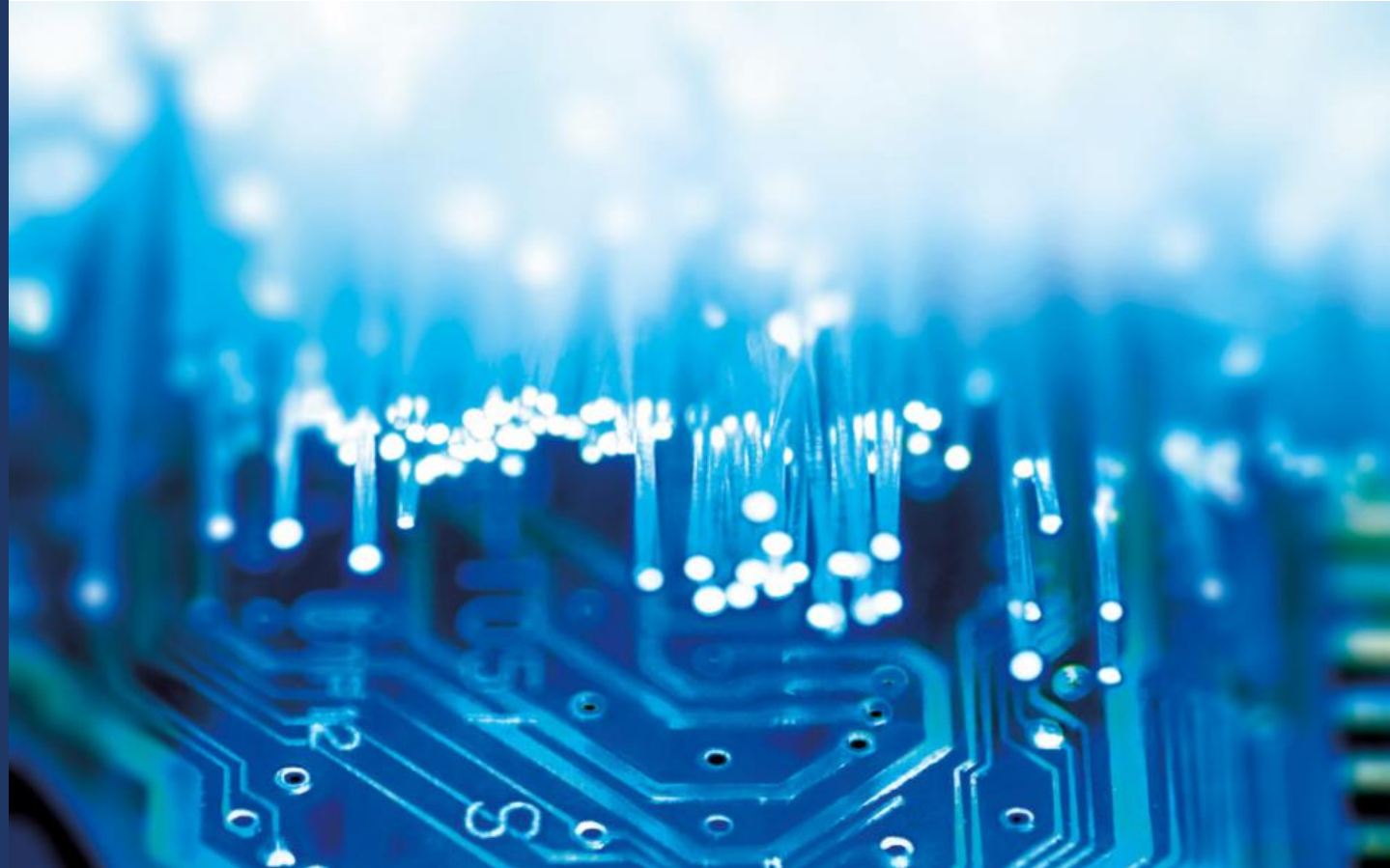
Desjardins Startup Prize Pitch Competition

Early-Stage Winners



UTE Programming: IP Education

- Providing critical IP education at all learner levels:
 - Level 1: IP Foundations
 - Level 2: IP Strategy and Application
- Recognized on student Co-Curricular Records
- Level 1 is available in French and English on four different platforms
- Level 1 has been recognized by the Ontario MCU as key milestone under IP Action Plan
- IP Matters Speaker Series



Diversity Fuels Innovation

EDI in Entrepreneurship

- Pitch with a Twist – International Women's Day Edition
- PRIDE Pitch – LGBTQ2S+ pitch competition
- Fireside at FemSTEM
- Indigenous Entrepreneurship Program in partnership with RedBird Circle Inc.
- Cassels Four Lines Women in Entrepreneurship Fund
- Black Founders Network





Black Founders Network

An inclusive community for Black entrepreneurs that provides access to networks, resources, and inspiration to help build, fund, and scale impactful startups

Connecting innovators with insights and opportunities.

International Opportunities

We are part of an international innovation superhighway, offering exchange opportunities around the world, from the United States to India, Africa, and beyond.



UTE Website

Startup Job Board

With over 2,500 jobs at 300+ U of T startups, the UTE Startup Job Board is the largest university or college startup job board in North America, and maybe the world!

Startup Job Board

Be part of the next big thing.
Explore career opportunities at innovative startups in the U of T community.

U of T Startup? [Claim your profile](#)

356

COMPANIES

2,520

JOB

Sales Strategy Lead

Cohere

Toronto, ON, Canada Today

Account Executive

MedStack

Toronto, ON, Canada Today

aoms.

Part Time Content Creator - Product Photographer & Video Editor

AOMS Technologies

North York, Toronto, ON, Canada Today

aoms.

Marketing Communications Manager

AOMS Technologies

North York, Toronto, ON, Canada Today

Senior Software Engineer - Software Quality (Remote)

BenchSci

Toronto, ON, Canada Today

Scientist - R&D RNA Biology

Deep Genomics

Toronto, ON, Canada Yesterday

Digital Marketing Manager

Penfield.AI

Toronto, ON, Canada; Remote Yesterday

Deep Genomics

Genomics Health & Life Sciences

11-50

Deep Genomics is using artificial intelligence to build a new universe of life-saving genetic therapies. The future of medicine will rely on artificial intelligence, because biology is too complex for humans to understand. At Deep Genomics, our geneticists, molecular biologists and chemists develop new ways of detecting and treating disease using our biologically accurate artificial intelligence technology.

deepgenomics.com

Toronto, ON, Canada

Founded in 2014

Search job title, companies, industry...

Toronto, ON, Canada

Job functions Locations

Showing 24 jobs

Scientist - R&D RNA Biology

Toronto, ON, Canada Yesterday

READ MORE

Laboratory Technician - Therapeutic Development (Liver/Kidney Models)

Toronto, ON, Canada 15 days

READ MORE

Head of Chemistry

Boston, MA, USA; Remote; Toronto, ON, Canada 20 days

READ MORE

DevOps Engineer

Toronto, ON, Canada 22 days

READ MORE

Research Technician - High Throughput Screening

Toronto, ON, Canada 23 days

READ MORE

Cell Biology Core Technician

READ MORE



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

18

Holiday Market

- Save the date! December 3 & 4 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at U of T Bookstore
- 16 U of T startups participating
- VIP Event: Dec. 3 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- UTE Winter Social: Dec. 4 from 4 – 6 p.m.



U of T Startup Holiday Market

**December 3 & 4, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
U of T Bookstore, 214 College St.**

Startup Perks



Microsoft Founders Hub for Startups

Cloud Computing

Microsoft Founders Hub for Startups is a program offered by Microsoft that provides eligible startups with tools and resource...

To apply for the program, complete the short registration form here: <https://foundershub.startups.mj...>



AWS Activate

Cloud Computing

AWS Activate provides the resources you need to quickly get started on AWS and grow business. With AWS credits, ...

To apply go to: <http://amzn.to/2BUVgk>. When prompted, use the following Organization ID (case sensitive):...



Google for Startups Cloud Program

Cloud Computing

The Google for Startups Cloud Program provides startups funded by a venture capital firm, accelerator, incubator, seed or ...

Interested startups can apply directly here: <https://cloud.google.com/startup>. The application process is ...



Pocketed

Funding and Finance

Pocketed helps thousands of small and start-up businesses, just like you, access billions of dollars in untapped non-dilutive ...

Sign up using the referral code UTEX to access the following: 1.25% off upgrades to Pocketed+ (with your referral code) ...



Canadian Women's Network

Networking

The Canadian Women's Network (CWN) is a community that connects Canadian women founders with an influential ...

Join here and put "University of Toronto" as your referral partner to access the discount.



TPH

Marketing

TPH is pleased to continually support U of T start-ups and entrepreneurship by providing 20% off all products and service...

To place your order, please email Mark Gillespie at tph005@tph.ca with mgillespie@tph.ca cc'd with code: UOFT-STARTUP-TPH-...



Akran Marketing

Marketing

Akran Marketing is one of Canada's largest promotional product companies and the only promo platinum supplier in ...

UTE Startups can easily place an order on Akran's website at akranmarketing.com using the promo code "UTE."



HubSpot

Productivity

U of T is now an approved HubSpot for Startups Partner, which means all eligible U of T startups and members qualify fo...

Startups now have two ways to



Ownr

Productivity

Ownr makes small business less hard! Easily register, incorporate, create legal agreements, manage employee documents and more ...

The University of Toronto



Carta

Professional Services

Carta helps companies and investors manage their capitalization tables, valuations, investments, and equity plans. ...

Offers and resources are listed



Dell for Entrepreneurs Canada

Professional Services

Dell For Entrepreneurs Canada is pleased to support U of T startups by providing the following benefits and perks: ...

Reach out to the Onboarding



Take It Easy Group

Professional Services

Take It Easy Group is the top North American fractional executive assistant service that supports Startups, Founders, an...

They have a 3-week discovery



DHL Express

Shipping

Member Benefits & Perks: Offering affiliates preferential discounts for exporting & importing. ...

Please contact the account



The Logic

Subscriptions

The Logic is one of Canada's preeminent business and technology publications, covering everything from crypto to ...

Setup Process:

Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus

750K

ft² of AI and life sciences space

250K

ft² of West Building (Phase 1)

\$100M

donation from Gerald Schwartz & Heather Reisman

20+

external tenants including Novartis & Unilever

How we do it

- No wrong door philosophy
- UTE Website (Wordpress Multi-site)
- Monthly Community meetings (and channels to support – Slack, listserv)
- Quarterly Community Socials
- Leverage Partnerships
- “Provost Fund” to Build Community
- Annual Reporting to tell one unified story
- Buy Blue Program and be a first customer

Connect with us

U of T Entrepreneurship (UTE)

- **Subscribe** to the U of T Entrepreneurship weekly newsletter
- **Follow** @UofTStartup on social media
- **Email** entrepreneurs@utoronto.ca
- **Sign-up** for the *Deep Tech Download* quarterly digest
- **Visit** entrepreneurs.utoronto.ca to learn more
- **Visit** www.utest.to to learn about **UTEST**

Research and Innovation (IPO)

- **Email** innovations.partnerships@utoronto.ca
- **Visit** research.utoronto.ca/connect-with-us to learn more.

U OF T ENTREPRENEURSHIP



UTE Presentation

GCEC

March 27, 2025

Jon French
jon.french@utoronto.ca

