

# A TECH HUNTERS GUIDE TO THE MIT STARTUP GALAXY



## A STARTUP ECOSYSTEM GUIDE

Supporting CSAIL affiliates in their efforts to navigate MIT and the Metro Boston innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem.

As one of the world's leading research universities, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has long been the birthplace of incredible, revolutionary ideas across the disciplines. Arguably more remarkable than the research and ideation is MIT's dedication to turning ideas into impact. There is a shared understanding that groundbreaking discoveries have much more value if transformed into a product or platform which will improve the lives of people far beyond the MIT community. At the Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), MIT's largest laboratory, researchers have continuously shaped the future of computation and have created paradigm-shifting technologies. Discoveries made at CSAIL were instrumental in the birth of the digital economy, and commercialization is an essential element of the lab's history. However, for much of this early, revolutionary innovation, no roadmap existed for researchers seeking to take their technology to the general public. The creation of commercial ventures remains an imprecise process, but what few resources existed to aid entrepreneurs even a decade ago pale in comparison to the current entrepreneurial infrastructure. In order to facilitate commercialization and meet the diverse needs of entrepreneurs, a plethora of organizations, programs, clubs, and competitions have cropped up at MIT in recent years. Alongside the proliferation of entrepreneurial resources within the bounds of MIT, an exceptional array of resources have been created by independent companies and nonprofits in the Metro Boston area.



The intention of this guide is to encourage greater awareness, more effective navigation, and fruitful engagement with the many resources available. Below, you will find a curated list of resources from MIT and the surrounding areas (Cambridge, Boston, Somerville, etc.). Please note that although this guide represents a significant cross-section of resources in the ecosystem, it is certainly not all-encompassing. Technology defines the scope of the guide, but there are countless valuable resources in the Metro Boston area supporting entrepreneurs in other realms. The goal of this guide is to showcase resources that are most relevant to the CSAIL community, including students, researchers, and industry partners.

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## KEY



Denotes an MIT resource with which engagement may be beneficial ***for industry partners***



# RESOURCES AT MIT

## MENTORSHIP

### Boston University School of Law Clinics

**Categorization:** Mentorship

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**Contact:** Andrew Sellars (Director of Technology Law Clinic): [sellars@bu.edu](mailto:sellars@bu.edu);  
Jim Wheaton (Director of Startup Law Clinic): [jwheaton@bu.edu](mailto:jwheaton@bu.edu);

MIT and BU School of Law have established the Startup Law & Technology Law clinics to offer free legal guidance to student innovators and entrepreneurs. Through this unique collaboration, student innovators are connected with future lawyers from BU Law to address complex legal issues.

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### MIT Venture Mentoring Service

**Categorization:** Mentorship

**Restricted to:** MIT

**Contact:** General Inquiries: [vms@mit.edu](mailto:vms@mit.edu);

The MIT Venture Mentorship Service (VMS) supports innovation and entrepreneurial activity in the MIT community by matching entrepreneurs with skilled mentors who provide professional advice and coaching. VMS is free to MIT students, alumni, faculty, and staff, and assistance covers a wide range of business activities.

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### Legatum Fellowships \*

**Categorization:** Mentorship

**Restricted to:** MIT Students (or an individual admitted to begin a full-time degree program in the fall of upcoming academic year)

**Contact:** Megan Mitchell (Director of Fellowships & Student Programs): [meganmit@mit.edu](mailto:meganmit@mit.edu); **General Inquiries:** [legatum@mit.edu](mailto:legatum@mit.edu);

The Legatum Fellowship is designed to cultivate aspiring entrepreneurs into impactful leaders in emerging markets. Each year the Legatum center builds a cohort 20-25 students dedicated to building ventures in the developing world and provides them with tuition, travel, and prototyping support, as well as access to mentors, special seminars, and other resources.

**\*For Industry:** Legatum Fellows are exceptional entrepreneurs creating ventures in the developing world which may be of interest

## MENTORSHIP *(CONTINUED)*

### MIT Enterprise Forum Cambridge

**Categorization:** Mentorship

**Restricted to:** N/A

**General Inquiries:** [entforumcambridge@mit.edu](mailto:entforumcambridge@mit.edu)

The MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF) is a nonprofit organization led by dedicated staff, sponsors and volunteers who share a passion for making a difference and achieving global outcomes through tailored local and regional programs. The Forum's Mentor Program services science and tech entrepreneurs in moving their ideas forward by assigning them mentors to help with both long and short term goals.

## ACCELERATION

### MIT Delta v \*

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT-Founded Startups

**Contact:** Trish Cotter (Executive Director & Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Martin Trust Center & Director of delta v): [pcotter@mit.edu](mailto:pcotter@mit.edu);

MIT Delta v is an educational accelerator designed to support MIT student entrepreneurs and help them progress towards the creation of a viable, sustainable venture by providing resources such as intensive mentorship, networking, physical space, funding, and demo days.

**\*For Industry:** MIT delta v teams lead innovative, early-stage startups that may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

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### MIT Proto Ventures Program

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT Students & Faculty

The MIT Proto Ventures program oversees the emergence of new ventures from discovery of ideas and resources within the MIT community to the creation of a "proto venture" that demonstrates the viability of the venture and the robustness of the technology. The program has multiple channels, each led by domain experts from MIT with experience or interest in technology translation.

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### MIT Venture Scaling Bootcamp

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** N/A

**Contact:** General Inquiries: [bootcamp@mit.edu](mailto:bootcamp@mit.edu);

The 4-day MIT Venture Scaling Bootcamp aids entrepreneurs in hand-crafting a much-needed plan to address their scaling challenges and work towards building their startup into a massively valuable company. Participants will leave with an actionable plan customized to grow their startup, and a lifelong community to carry them throughout their journey.

ACCELERATION  
CONTINUED



## ACCELERATION (CONTINUED)

### MIT STEX25 \*

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT & ILP Member Companies

**Contact:** Marcus Dahllöf (Startup Exchange Program Director): [marcusd@mit.edu](mailto:marcusd@mit.edu);  
Rebecca Xiong (Startup Exchange Program Director): [beccax@mit.edu](mailto:beccax@mit.edu);

The MIT STEX25 accelerator is focused on fostering collaboration between MIT-connected startups and member companies of MIT's Industrial Liaison Program (ILP). STEX25 companies are technology-based startups identified as particularly well-suited for industry collaboration. The startups receive promotion, travel, and advisory support, and are prioritized for meetings with ILP member companies.

**\*For Industry:** STEX25 startups are innovative, well-vetted, and may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

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### The Engine \*

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** N/A

**Contact:** Katie Rae (CEO & Managing Partner): [katie@engine.xyz](mailto:katie@engine.xyz)

**General Inquiries:** [hello@engine.xyz](mailto:hello@engine.xyz)

The Engine is an incubator powered by MIT for startups tackling "tough" technologies that take significant time and resources to develop. The Engine provides maker & laboratory facilities, co-working space, and mentors, as well as facilitating community programming and regular demo days to offer companies expertise, exposure, and connections to capital.

**\*For Industry:** Participants and affiliates of The Engine are innovative, well-vetted tough tech startups that may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

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### Play Labs@MIT \*

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** N/A (Note: MIT affiliation boosts admissions chances)

Play Labs is a summer incubator program for startups at MIT using playful technologies (crypto, eSports, video games, VR, AR, AI & ML, etc.) in any industry. Selected startups will receive an initial investment, hands-on mentoring, a curriculum of speakers and advisors, introductions to industry experts, and the ability to get a follow-on investment after graduating from the incubator.

**\*For Industry:** Play Labs participants are early-stage startups working on unique and innovative technologies which may be of interest.

# ACCELERATION (CONTINUED)

## MIT Fuse

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [mitfuse@mit.edu](mailto:mitfuse@mit.edu)

MIT fuse is a 3-week hands-on startup experience designed for students and small teams looking to work, think, and talk like an entrepreneur and start the path towards becoming a company. During the program, individuals attend lectures and work on useful startup-related skills, such as storytelling, primary market research, marketing, prototyping, UX and testing.

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## ProtoWorks

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [protoworks@mit.edu](mailto:protoworks@mit.edu)

ProtoWorks is the Martin Trust Center's makerspace, where students can explore and experiment on their entrepreneurial ideas through initial physical prototyping. Currently registered MIT students may complete advanced trainings to gain access to the 3D printing, laser cutting, bench tools, and much more. ProtoWorks also provides access to an exciting community of entrepreneurs and makers.

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## Startlabs

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [startlabs-contact@mit.edu](mailto:startlabs-contact@mit.edu)

StartLabs is an undergraduate club whose mission is to enable students to bring technical innovations to society through entrepreneurship. StartLabs helps students start their own companies and connects students with the Boston startup ecosystem. They partner with organizations in and out of MIT to host events and programs to support entrepreneurs with any stage startup, from ideation to scaling.

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## MIT-Air Force AI Innovation Accelerator \*

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** N/A

Announced in May 2019, the MIT-Air Force AI Accelerator is currently being established. As of right now, the accelerator will be housed in MIT's Beaver Works facility, an innovation center located in the Technology Square block of Kendall Square. Research will focus on rapid deployment of artificial intelligence innovations in operations, disaster response, and medical readiness.

**\*For Industry:** Potential avenues for engagement yet to be determined, but there may be unique opportunities for corporate partnership.

# ACCELERATION (CONTINUED)

## MITdesignX

**Categorization:** Acceleration

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [designx@mit.edu](mailto:designx@mit.edu)

MITdesignX is an academic program in the MIT School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P) dedicated to design innovation and entrepreneurship. We empower students, faculty and researchers to build new business ventures and forward-thinking solutions designed to address critical challenges facing the future of cities and the human environment.

# FUNDING

## MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition \*

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** Teams with at least 1 Current MIT Student

The MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition helps students and researchers from MIT and Greater Boston to transform their ideas into leading companies. By advancing in any of the three unique contests, ventures gain access to an extensive mentorship network, media exposure, business plan feedback, discounted services, and non-dilutive funding.

**\*For Industry:** Competition winners are innovative startups from across the disciplines that may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

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## MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**Contact:** General Inquiries: [sandbox@mit.edu](mailto:sandbox@mit.edu)

The MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program provides seed funding for student-initiated entrepreneurship ideas, mentoring from within MIT and from a broad network of committed partners, and tailored educational experiences. Student teams are matched with mentors and given personalized curricula that best support them in moving their ideas forward.

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## MIT Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation \*

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** MIT Students & Faculty

**General Inquiries:** [deshpandecenter@mit.edu](mailto:deshpandecenter@mit.edu);

The Deshpande Center empowers MIT researchers to transform innovative technologies developed in the lab into breakthrough products and new companies. The center awards research grants and other assistance to faculty members whose work shows the potential to benefit society, transform markets and industries, and improve the quality of life for people everywhere.

**\*For Industry:** The Deshpande Center offers numerous ways to get involved, including the Corporate Program, corporate sponsored research, and event sponsorship.



## FUNDING *(CONTINUED)*

### Lemelson-MIT Program

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** MIT Students (as well as individuals who have completed their Bachelor's degree within the last 25 years)

**Contact:** Stephanie Couch (Executive Director): [scouch@mit.edu](mailto:scouch@mit.edu)

**General Inquiries:** [info-lemelson@mit.edu](mailto:info-lemelson@mit.edu)

The Lemelson-MIT Program celebrates outstanding inventors and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention. The program recognizes emerging collegiate inventors whose inventions could impact important sectors of the global economy and honors mid-career inventors with a prestigious cash prize.

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### MIT FinTech Conference Pitch Competition \*

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** FinTech-oriented companies

**General Inquiries:** [mitfintech@mit.edu](mailto:mitfintech@mit.edu)

The MIT FinTech Conference Pitch Competition provides 8 startups the opportunity to compete for \$10,000 and a working lunch with the Barclays Accelerator powered by Techstars team in Boston, where the founders will receive feedback and guidance from the Accelerator Team.

**\*For Industry:** Competition winners are innovative FinTech startups that may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

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### MIT Entrepreneurship Center

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**Contact:** [ecenter@mit.edu](mailto:ecenter@mit.edu)

The MIT Entrepreneurship Center (E-Center) seeks to inspire, educate, and understand entrepreneurs and the wealth creation process via a wide variety of entrepreneurial efforts throughout MIT and beyond.

## FUNDING (CONTINUED)

### MIT I-Corps

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** N/A

**General Inquiries:** [icorps@mit.edu](mailto:icorps@mit.edu)

I-Corps is a program that prepares scientists and engineers to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and to accelerate the transfer of cutting-edge, NSF-funded research into commercial success. This program provides researchers with the tools and a seed micro-grant of up to \$1,500 to explore potential applications for a technology and understand who would be a customer and why.

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### MIT IDEAS

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** Teams led by MIT Students

**Contact:** Rebecca Obounou, Assistant Dean of Social Innovation

**General Inquiries:** [globalchallenge@mit.edu](mailto:globalchallenge@mit.edu)

IDEAS is an annual innovation and social entrepreneurship competition for MIT students and their collaborators. The competition enables students to apply their MIT education in real-world situations to tackle quality of life issues for people around the world. Winning teams receive up to \$15,000 to launch their projects during a 15-month grant period.

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### MIT Inclusive Innovation Challenge \*

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** N/A

**General Inquiries:** [iic@mit.edu](mailto:iic@mit.edu)

The Inclusive Innovation Challenge (IIC) is MIT's future of work prize, awarding \$1.6 million annually to entrepreneurs using technology to create economic opportunity for workers. The IIC collaborates with like-minded organizations to select and celebrate sixty regional finalists from across the globe. From this field, four global grand prize winners each win \$250,000 and world-wide recognition.

**\*For Industry:** Inclusive Innovation Challenge winners represent some of the most exceptional startups shaping the future of work in the following categories: financial inclusion; income growth & job creation; skills development & opportunity matching; technology access.

## FUNDING (CONTINUED)

### **IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge**

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** Teams led by MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [mitpkgideas@mit.edu](mailto:mitpkgideas@mit.edu)

The IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge is MIT's 20 -year old annual social entrepreneurship program housed in the PKG Public Service Center. Since its founding in 2001, IDEAS has enabled MIT student-led teams to apply their education and expertise in collaboration with community partners to address social and environmental challenges around the world. Through this program, you can recruit a team from anywhere in the world and develop a creative solution in partnership with impacted stakeholders. Your team can also benefit from a supportive body of reviewers, mentors, and funding within the range of \$1,000 – \$20,000.

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### **MIT Clean Energy Prize**\*

**Categorization:** Funding

**Restricted to:** Clean Energy Startups with Teams Composed of at least 50% MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [cleanenergyprize@mit.edu](mailto:cleanenergyprize@mit.edu)

The MIT Clean Energy Prize is a multi-stage, student-organized business plan competition. University teams from across the US and the world enter their business ideas in one of several 'tracks.' 15 business plans from the applicant pool are chosen and these teams receive mentoring, access to other resources, and an opportunity to win the grand prize.

**\*For Industry:** Clean Energy Prize winners are startups with innovative technologies that may be exceptional candidates for corporate partnerships, use case testing, or acquisition.

# NETWORKING

## MIT Alumni Angels Boston \*

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT-Founded Startups & MIT Alumni (with exceptions)

**Contact:** Wan Li Zhu (Managing Director & Co-Founder): [wlz@alum.mit.edu](mailto:wlz@alum.mit.edu);  
Ishan Sachdev (Co-Founder & Adviser): [is@alum.mit.edu](mailto:is@alum.mit.edu)

MIT Alumni Angels, an affiliate of the MIT Alumni Association, connects startups and investors from the MIT community. With chapters in Boston, New York, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, Alumni Angels hosts quarterly pitch events which attract MIT founders, investors, and experienced executives.

**\*For Industry:** Employees who are MIT alumni can participate in this unique community to connect with well-vetted, MIT-founded startups from across sectors.

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## MIT Startup Exchange \*

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** Startups with MIT-Licensed Technology; Startups Founded by MIT Faculty, Staff, or Alumni; and ILP Member Companies

**Contact:** Marcus Dahllöf (Program Director): [marcusd@mit.edu](mailto:marcusd@mit.edu);  
Rebecca Xiong (Program Director): [beccax@mit.edu](mailto:beccax@mit.edu)

The MIT Startup Exchange promotes collaboration and partnerships between MIT-connected startups and industry. The Startup Exchange maintains a database of over 1,500 MIT-connected startups with roots all across MIT, and it hosts a robust schedule of startup workshops and showcases.

**\*For Industry:** MIT ILP member companies are matched with MIT startups which meet their specific business needs.

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## MIT Venture Capital & Private Equity Club

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT

**General Inquiries:** [vcpe@mit.edu](mailto:vcpe@mit.edu)

The MIT Venture Capital & Private Equity (VCPE) Club provides opportunities to learn about the industries, to interact with investors and executives, and to develop relationships within the MIT community. The club has established partnerships throughout MIT and with the local investing community, and have a proven track record of helping drive MIT-generated technology towards commercialization.

## NETWORKING *(CONTINUED)*

### **MIT Sloan Entrepreneurship & Innovation (E&I) Club**

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT

**General Inquiries:** [eiclub.officers@sloangroups.mit.edu](mailto:eiclub.officers@sloangroups.mit.edu)

The E&I Club supports over 350 members with an extensive program including sharing and connecting students with externship, internship and fellowship opportunities, organized treks to entrepreneurial ecosystems.

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### **MIT Entrepreneurs Club**

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** N/A

**General Inquiries:** [e-club-officers@mit.edu](mailto:e-club-officers@mit.edu)

The MIT entrepreneurs club (the “EClub”) is an MIT academic club that focuses on helping to develop all aspects of science, engineering and technology business creation. Principal constituents include students, faculty, staff and alumni of MIT, Harvard University and Wellesley College.

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### **MIT Incube**

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**Contact:** General Inquiries: [incube@mit.edu](mailto:incube@mit.edu)

MIT Incube is a rapidly growing community of collaborative creators who pitch ideas, form teams, and work together on projects. With a strong focus on technology, projects vary as widely as personalities, from software to hardware, zany to industrial, local to global, and beyond. Everyone meets once a week to create projects, share ideas, and enjoy good food.

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### **MIT Ventureships Club**

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT

**General Inquiries:** [ventureships\\_executive@mit.edu](mailto:ventureships_executive@mit.edu)

The MIT Ventureships Club aims to enhance the startup working experiences of MIT students and to help hatch more brilliant MIT ideas into startups. The club offers hands-on training for the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders. Students work with MIT-affiliated early-stage startup



## NETWORKING (CONTINUED)

### MIT D-Lab

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT students

**General Inquiries:** Nancy Adams- nadamsx@mit.edu

MIT D-Lab works with people around the world to develop and advance collaborative approaches and practical solutions to global poverty challenges. The mission is pursued through our academics program of more than 20 MIT classes and student research and fieldwork opportunities; our research groups spanning a variety of sectors and approaches; and a group of participatory innovation programs we call innovation practice.

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### MIT Alumni Startups \*

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** N/A

MIT Alumni Startups is a website that provides updates on the MIT Alumni startup community.

**\*For Industry:** Featured content on the latest MIT Alumni news and entrepreneurship.

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### MIT Science & Engineering Business Club

**Categorization:** Networking

**Restricted to:** MIT

The Science and Engineering Business Club (SEBC) helps MIT Undergraduates, Masters, and PhDs realize their full potential by providing them with a platform of opportunities in finance, consulting, technology, and entrepreneurship.

## RESOURCE HUBS

### Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship

**Categorization:** Resource Hub

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**Contact:** Bill Aulet (Managing Director): [aulet@mit.edu](mailto:aulet@mit.edu)

**General Inquiries:** [trustcenter@mit.edu](mailto:trustcenter@mit.edu)

The Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship provides the expertise, support, and connections MIT students need to become effective entrepreneurs. The Trust Center offers a wide variety of resources, programming, and physical space.

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### MIT Innovation Initiative

**Categorization:** Resource Hub

**Restricted to:** MIT Students & Faculty

**Contact:** Gene Keselman (Executive Director): [keselman@mit.edu](mailto:keselman@mit.edu)

**General Inquiries:** [innovation@mit.edu](mailto:innovation@mit.edu)

The MIT Innovation Initiative works to strengthen the vibrant culture of innovation and equip the MIT community and its partners. It transforms powerful ideas into impact through building a dynamic innovation infrastructure of community, new educational programs, research efforts, and physical infrastructure.

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### StartMIT (part of the MIT Innovation Initiative)

**Categorization:** Other

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [startmit@mit.edu](mailto:startmit@mit.edu)

StartMIT is a 2.5 week program over January's Independent Activities Period (IAP) that aims to give any student who is curious about entrepreneurship, an introduction to the skill set and spirit it requires, and exposure to the amazing resources available at MIT to continue the journey after the class.

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### T=0

**Categorization:** Other

**Restricted to:** MIT

T=0 is MIT's campus-wide annual festival of entrepreneurship and innovation that brings together student clubs, departments, and startups to showcase innovation and entrepreneurship.

## OTHER VALUABLE RESOURCES

### MIT Technology Licensing Office \*

**Categorization:** Other

**Restricted to:** MIT

**General Inquiries:** [tlo@mit.edu](mailto:tlo@mit.edu)

The MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO) helps identify, protect, market and license MIT's intellectual property and assist its transfer into society for the public good. TLO strives to cultivate an environment of scientific and entrepreneurial excellence and bridge connections from MIT's research community to industry and startups.

#### **Best Practices:**

- If you are considering commercializing some aspect of your research, speak to the TLO as soon as possible. If you believe you have a novel idea, [submit a disclosure](#) to the TLO on their website.
- TLO considers patentability & commercial potential to determine if it is worth pursuing a patent. Be able to effectively articulate business cases for your technology.
- The TLO works with patentable technologies, copyright/software, tangible property, know how, and more.
- Review the [MIT Inventor's Guide to Startups](#) for faculty and students.

**\*For Industry:** Browse the [extensive database of technologies](#) licensed by TLO and available for acquisition to meet your business needs. For more information about licensing MIT startups, please visit:

[tlo.mit.edu/resources/licensing-start-ups](https://tlo.mit.edu/resources/licensing-start-ups)

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### MIT Orbit

**Categorization:** Resource Hub

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** [MITOrbit@mit.edu](mailto:MITOrbit@mit.edu)

Created by the Martin Trust Center for Entrepreneurship, Orbit is the one-stop-shop for MIT student entrepreneurs. With Orbit, students at MIT can browse classes, resources, and startups; engage with the MIT entrepreneurship community both in-person and online; and get connected with the impressive array of resources that MIT has to offer.

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### Bernard M. Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program

**Categorization:** Resource Hub

**Restricted to:** MIT Students

**General Inquiries:** Eileen Milligan- [emillign@mit.edu](mailto:emillign@mit.edu)

The Bernard M. Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program aims to develop next-generation technical leaders with the values, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and address engineering problems. Our approach is cohort-based and highly interactive, blending Engineering Scenario Practice, Engineering Leadership Concepts & Theory, and Reflection and Values Development.



# OUTSIDE of MIT

## INCUBATORS

### Fairmount Innovation Lab Launchpad

**Emphasis:** Mentorship

**Target Client:** Early-stage creative or social ventures

**General Inquiries:** [fil594membership@gmail.com](mailto:fil594membership@gmail.com)

Fairmount Innovation Lab is a unique, inclusive, cross-sector incubator for igniting, launching and growing creative and social enterprise in Boston's Fairmount Indigo Corridor and adjacent communities. Entrepreneurs get access to networking events, a talented community of innovators and entrepreneurs in residence, a design and prototype / fabrication studio, and more.

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### Founder Institute

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Networking

**Target Client:** Idea-stage & prototyping-stage startups

The Founder Institute is the world's premier idea-stage accelerator and startup launch program. Their comprehensive step-by-step program gives entrepreneurs the structure, mentor support, and global network needed to start an enduring company. In addition, the Founder Institute is the only program of its kind that accepts solo-founders and founders with day jobs, and that shares equity with all participants.

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### FinTech Sandbox

**Emphasis:** Financial Data

**Target Client:** Startups who require financial data for product development and testing

**Contact:** Jean Donnelly (Executive Director): [jdonnelly@fintechsandbox.org](mailto:jdonnelly@fintechsandbox.org)

FinTech Sandbox is a Boston-based nonprofit that helps FinTech startups build great products. It provides critical data access and development resources to FinTech entrepreneurs around the world. FinTech Sandbox hopes to enable innovative partnerships with financial institutions that address the industry's most pressing challenges.

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### Greentown Labs Incubator

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Cleantech startups

**General Inquiries:** [hello@greentownlabs.com](mailto:hello@greentownlabs.com)

Greentown Labs aims to help entrepreneurs solve the world's biggest energy and environmental challenges. They offer 40,000 sq. ft. of prototyping lab and co-located office space, a shared machine shop, immersion in a growing community of energy and clean technology entrepreneurs, and on-site events and programs designed to enable start-ups to rapidly grow their networks and their companies.

INCUBATORS  
CONTINUED

# INCUBATORS *(CONTINUED)*

## North Shore InnoVentures

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Life sciences & cleantech startups

**General Inquiries:** [info@nsiv.org](mailto:info@nsiv.org)

NSIV is a non-profit, supported in part by state and federal grants as well as corporate sponsors. It is a technology business incubator to nurture innovative early-stage cleantech and life science companies. NSIV provides shared physical resources, sponsor services, experienced entrepreneurs, and investment advisers to its member companies.

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## RaizLabs XLR8

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Mobile software startups

Raizlabs' XLR8 incubator provides office space and startup assistance to early-stage companies in mobile app design, development, and strategy. Their core expertise is in building great products, and they assist companies in focusing on customer's needs to find the most successful product definition for their startups.

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## University of Massachusetts - Boston Venture Development Center

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Healthcare, biopharmaceutical, medical device, finance, software, electronics, nanotechnology and energy startups

**General Inquiries:** [vdc@umb.edu](mailto:vdc@umb.edu)

VDC sponsors a cap-exempt H-1B visa anytime during the year, provides access to a team that has been part of creating companies worth a billion dollars as both investors and entrepreneurs as well as access to a top-tier, ready to use laboratory and office workspace. Additionally, VDC helps companies find engineering and business interns.

# ACCELERATORS

## BigBooster

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Networking

**Target Client:** Early-stage startups in the areas of bio/health, IT, & global impact

**General Inquiries:** [contact@bigbooster.org](mailto:contact@bigbooster.org)

BigBooster is a unique international non-profit acceleration program for early-stage startups in Bio & Health, Informative Tech and Global Impact. In Europe, Africa, China and in the US, our program empowers them to cross borders think global and go international.

ACCELERATORS  
CONTINUED



## ACCELERATORS *(CONTINUED)*

### Cleantech Open Northeast

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Networking

**Target Client:** Cleantech startups

**Contact:** Beth Zonis, Regional Director, Northeast: [bzonis@cleantechopen.org](mailto:bzonis@cleantechopen.org)

The Cleantech Open runs the world's largest cleantech accelerator. Their mission is to find, fund and foster entrepreneurs with big ideas that address today's most urgent energy, environmental, and economic challenges. Fueled by a global network of more than 2,000 volunteers and sponsors, the Cleantech Open unites the public and private sectors in a shared vision for making the cleantech sectors a thriving economic engine around the world.

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### Cybersecurity Factory

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding

**Target Client:** Early-stage cybersecurity startups with MVP

**General Inquiries:** [team@cybersecurityfactory.com](mailto:team@cybersecurityfactory.com)

The Cybersecurity Factory is a summer accelerator program in collaboration with Highland Capital Partners which provides a \$35,000 convertible note, office space in Kendall Square, seasoned technical and business mentors, and a network of potential investors.

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### DCU FinTech Innovation Center

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Seed stage FinTech startups

**General Inquiries:** [web.contact@dcufintech.org](mailto:web.contact@dcufintech.org)

The DCU FinTech Innovation Center is a dedicated resource providing seed-stage FinTech startups with what they need for success: mentorship, workspace, a professional network, and community. Member companies in the space focus on AI/machine learning, blockchain, contextual banking (chatbot, voice, etc.), credit ratings, cryptocurrency, data & analytics, and more.

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### MassChallenge FinTech

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding/Networking

**Target Client:** Enterprise-ready Fintech startups

**General Inquiries:** [info@masschallenge.org](mailto:info@masschallenge.org)

MassChallenge FinTech is a 6-month, results-driven partnership with one or more industry leaders. The program provides extensive access to FinTech Sandbox data and resources as well as up to \$250k in equity-free cash prizes and access to free office space.

# ACCELERATORS *(CONTINUED)*

## Greentown Labs Bold Ideas Challenge

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding

**Target Client:** Energy-oriented startups

**Contact:** Bimal Mehta, North America Business Incubation Leader at Schneider Electric:

[bimal.mehta@schneider-electric.com](mailto:bimal.mehta@schneider-electric.com);

Katie MacDonald, Director of Strategic Partnerships at Greentown Labs:

[kmacdonald@greentownlabs.com](mailto:kmacdonald@greentownlabs.com)

The Greentown Labs Bold Ideas Challenge is a 6-month accelerator program for founders with a potential innovation in the Energy space (from home & office to industrial use to electric grid). 3-5 selected ideas receive free space at Greentown Labs (and associated benefits), will be eligible for \$25k in grant funding, and potential partnership or investment from Schneider Electric.

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## LearnLaunch Accelerator

**Emphasis:** Mentorship

**Target Client:** EdTech startups

**General Inquiries:** [accelerator@learnlaunch.com](mailto:accelerator@learnlaunch.com)

The LearnLaunch Accelerator provides the most promising education technology startups worldwide with all the tools necessary to grow a successful edtech startup. The 'Boost' program serves early-stage edtech startups, and 'Breakthrough' targets late-stage edtech startups. Both provide access to lifelong advisory services, an unparalleled founder community, and follow on investment expertise and connections.

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## Mass Challenge

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding

**Target Client:** Early-stage startups

**General Inquiries:** [info@masschallenge.org](mailto:info@masschallenge.org)

MassChallenge Boston is a premier early-stage accelerator which provides scholarships and cash prizes (zero cost & zero equity), experienced mentors and industry professionals, well-developed curriculum, premier office space, and a vast, valuable alumni network. Their model is industry agnostic, allowing them to select and support the highest potential innovators from all sectors.

**Seed Accelerator Ranking Project:** [Gold](#)

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## MassChallenge HealthTech

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding/Networking

**Target Client:** Enterprise-ready HealthTech startups

**General Inquiries:** [info@masschallenge.org](mailto:info@masschallenge.org)

The MassChallenge HealthTech program provides a pre-program industry partnership offer, free office space in the Seaport, a community of experts, +\$250k in cash prizes, and a tried-and-tested process. Startups in the program experience measurable growth in revenue, funding, and employee size.

# ACCELERATORS *(CONTINUED)*

## RevUp by BetaSpring

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding

**Target Client:** Fast-growing B2B & B2C companies

RevUp invests in B2B and B2C companies that are moving fast up a revenue-fueled growth curve. Companies receive \$100K-250K in non-dilutive cash, a science-driven process to accelerate growth, and the human resources to get it done.

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## Techstars Boston Accelerator

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Funding

**Target Client:** Technology-oriented startups

**Contact:** Clement Cazalot, Managing Director of Techstars Boston: [clement.cazalot@techstars.com](mailto:clement.cazalot@techstars.com)

With a reputation for churning out hugely successful companies & disruptive technologies, the Techstars program in Boston attracts top talent from all over the world. Known for producing some of the best-funded classes across all of Techstars programs, Boston boasts an intensely active startup ecosystem that enables hundreds of companies & successful exits each year.

Seed Accelerator Ranking Project: Platinum

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## TiE Scale Up

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Networking

**Target Client:** Seed to Series A companies; sector agnostic

**General Inquiries:** [tieadmin@boston.tie.org](mailto:tieadmin@boston.tie.org)

A program of TiE Boston, the TiE Scale Up program aids companies in overcoming typical barriers to growth by helping them to optimize their strategic positioning, operations, sales, and competitive advantage. TiE Boston has a vibrant community of serial entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and industry experts, who understand these challenges and assist in identifying pathways to scale.

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## UFirst

**Emphasis:** Mentorship/Physical Space & Resources

**Target Client:** Earliest-stage startups with first-time founders

UFirst is an earliest stage accelerator for bold first-time founders intent on changing the world. Big ideas are only as good as the people behind them - that's why UFirst is about you, and your unique needs. With only a handful of exceptional founders selected each year, each UFirst Fellow is provided with personalized mentorship, access, and experiential learning.

## CO-WORKING SPACES and GUIDES

### Chain Co-working Brands:

Cambridge Innovation Center: 4 Locations in [Boston](#) & [Cambridge](#)

Industrious: 4 Locations in [Boston](#)

Spaces: 2 Locations in [Boston](#) & [Somerville](#)

The Wing: 1 Location in [Boston](#)

WeWork: 13 Locations in and around [Boston](#)

WorkBar: 5 Locations in [Boston](#), [Cambridge](#), & [Somerville](#)

### Guides:

Boston Startups Guide: [Co-working Space in Boston - 2019 Roundup](#) (2019)

Built in Boston: [The Essential Guide to Boston's Co-Working Spaces](#) (2016)

## STARTUP-RELATED MEDIA, EVENTS and COMMUNITIES

### BostInno

Through a daily newsletter, daily editorial, events, directories, data and more, BostInno is building a portal to and for the ecosystem's startup and tech communities.

### Boston Startups Guide

Created by Jay Neely and community contributions, Boston Startup Guide provides an often-updated, curated list of Boston startups & community resources.

### Built in Boston

The premier online community for Boston startups and tech companies. Find startup jobs, tech news and events.

### The Hitchhiker's Guide to Boston Innovation

From pillar companies to Midas List investors; journalists to influencers; events, workspaces, accelerators, neighborhoods, classes, and coffee shops - this guide is the living repository of the country's most innovative ecosystem.

### StartHub

StartHub.org is a comprehensive, centralized online platform designed to connect, support, and grow Greater Boston's world-class technology and early-stage community.

### Startup Boston

Startup Boston is on a mission to celebrate, educate, and connect Boston's startup community. Whether you're an aspiring founder, a leader at a growing company, or someone exploring opportunities to work with or at startups, Startup Boston has an event for you. technology careers.

## Startup-Related Media, Events, and Communities *(CONTINUED)*

### Techstars Community - Boston

Techstars Boston is a hub for startup-related community events and resources.

### Venture Café

The Venture Café, located in Kendall Square, connects entrepreneurs, investors, and innovators with weekly networking events.

### Women Who Code

Women Who Code's mission is to inspire women to excel in technology careers.