

FOUNDER PATH ^{FP}

RC FALL

Is becoming a founder right for me?

- Meet with Career & Professional Development (CPD) entrepreneurship coach
- Attend Rock/CPD career panel
- Join a Rock Executive Fellows Panel Discussion on current trends in entrepreneurship (AI, Web 3, VC, etc.)

Learn about your HBS resources:

- Entrepreneurship Day
- Rock and i-lab newsletters
- Startup Bootcamp info session
- New Venture Competition Kickoff
- Rock Summer Fellowship program information session
- i-lab information session
- Explore The Rock Center Website and HBS Startup Guide for Tools and How To's

Plug into the entrepreneurship community:

- Join an HBS club (E-ship/Tech) during Club Fair
- Apply for a Student i-lab Membership

JANUARY TERM

Learn how to start a new venture and accelerate your progress—participate in **Startup Bootcamp**.

Take the **Startup Toolkit Short Intensive Program (SIP)**.

Learn how to research business models, market sizes, and competitors by meeting with a Research Consultant at Baker Library—anytime.

Throughout your Founder Path, get feedback on your idea, testing plan, business model, and more from experienced entrepreneurs and VCs by meeting 1:1 with Rock Executive Fellows, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs), Venture Capital Partners (VCPs), and Lawyers-in-Residence (LIRs).

RC SPRING

Pitch your startup for feedback and the opportunity to win prize money:

- New Venture Competition (NVC)
- President's Innovation Challenge
- Black New Venture Competition (BNVC)

Build entrepreneurship and tech skills:

- Tech Club and CAML Club workshops/seminars
- Rock Center and i-lab workshops
- HBS course notes on the Harvard Business Publishing site
- The Entrepreneurial Manager (TEM)

Want to work on your idea over the summer? Apply to one or both of the following:

- Rock/SEI Summer Fellowship
- Student i-lab Membership

RC SUMMER

Work on your new venture:

- Rock Summer Fellowship program is a rigorous and practical program where you apply the skills you are learning to your own startup

Excited about your idea and want to pursue it in your EC year:

- Apply for the Student i-lab Membership

EC FALL

Accelerate your venture:

- Apply for the **Blavatnik Fellowship** for commercializing technology out of Harvard research center and hospitals

Choose from 30+ EC Courses in Entrepreneurship, including those that allow you to work in class on your venture:

- Independent Project
- FIELD X (provides funding)
- Entrepreneurial Sales 101
- Startup Operations (provides funding)
- Launching Technology Ventures (LTV)

Get pro bono legal support for your startup:

- Pitch to Harvard Law Entrepreneurship Project's (HLEP) program for free legal support
- Lawyers-in-Residence
- Pitch to Harvard Transaction Law Clinic

JANUARY TERM

Sign up for **Immersive Field Courses (IFC)** to Israel, India, and Silicon Valley.

Take more great EC Courses:

- Building Web 3 Businesses
- Entrepreneurial Sales 102
- Field Y
- Scaling Technology Ventures
- Startup Operations Studio (provides funding)
- Tough Tech Venture Labs
- 5 Technologies that Will Change the World

Want to pursue your idea after HBS:

- Apply for Rock Center Loan Reduction for founders who have qualified HBS loans

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COMPETITIONS

NEW VENTURE COMPETITION is not just a competition, but also a chance to get feedback on your ideas at the earliest stages of your company. We encourage all students to participate and gain valuable insights from serial entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts. Every student who enters will pitch to this group and receive feedback. Students may participate in either the Business Track or in the Social Enterprise Track. For each track, the cash prizes are: \$75K for the grand prize, \$25K to the runner-up, and \$5K for the crowd favorite. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

PRESIDENT'S INNOVATION CHALLENGE (PIC) is open to all Harvard students and has similar prize money to the New Venture Competition for each track. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

KEY PROGRAMS

THE ROCK SUMMER FELLOWS PROGRAM is a rigorous 10–12 week program for students starting their own venture or working for Pre-Seed to Series A companies. Students will participate in a number of workshops delineating the key tools and approaches to validating ideas, building your MVP, and acquiring your first customers. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

THE ROCK ACCELERATOR PROGRAM is a 12-week program offered to students in the summer between their RC and EC year. It supports student founders in preparing their startup for launch at the completion of their degree. It is a program for students who are serious about pursuing their business idea and are committed to a structured and rigorous program in order to support the goal of building a company. [FP](#)

THE ROCK ENTREPRENEURS-IN-RESIDENCE (EIR) PROGRAM brings successful entrepreneurs to campus to provide feedback and advice to student startups. This popular program offers a way to get invaluable insights from experienced entrepreneurs at different stages of your E-ship journey. EIRs will help you think through your ideas, develop testing plans, connect you with "industry experts," and help you understand if founding or joining a startup is right for you. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

ROCK VENTURE CAPITAL ADVISORS (VCA) PROGRAM allows students to meet with Managing Partners from top tier early-stage investing firms who can help craft a compelling story and define metrics for success. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

THE ROCK LAWYER-IN-RESIDENCE (LIR) PROGRAM provides HBS students with lawyers to provide legal advice on topics like incorporation, founder's agreements, and term sheets. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

THE STUDENT I-LAB MEMBERSHIP provides an all-inclusive pass to access the i-lab's wealth of offerings—workshops, experts, advisors, funding opportunities, and an invaluable community of like-minded peers—all curated to support founders at any stage and the innovation-curious. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ROCK SUMMER FELLOWSHIP (RC ONLY), funded by gifts from Arthur Rock and the John F. Lebor family, enables students to continue to explore their entrepreneurial path, both as founders and as those interested in joining early-stage startups, during the summer between their RC (first-year) and EC (second-year) year. As noted in the *Programs* section, this 10–12 week summer fellowship provides substantial financial support as well as a peer network and community, RC students are able to work on their own venture idea or work at an early-stage startup. [FP](#) [JP](#) [IP](#)

ROCK CENTER LOAN REDUCTION (EC ONLY) is for startup founders who are committing themselves to their startups and foregoing other job opportunities after graduation, this reduces some of the financial burden of their qualifying MBA loans. [FP](#)

HARVARD I-LAB FUNDING provides HBS and Harvard University students funding opportunities in the form of Spark Grants, Social Impact Fellowship Fund, the Allston Venture Fund, etc. [FP](#)

RESOURCES

BAKER LIBRARY librarians and research consultants can help you find market research, industry analysis, funding/deal information, and data on potential competitors. Through Baker library, you will have access to a multitude of industry research publications and databases that will guide you. Popular resources include their Entrepreneurship Toolkit, Capital IQ, CB Insights, Crunchbase, and Pitchbook.

ROCK CENTER YOUTUBE CHANNEL provides video interviews, panel discussions, and workshops on key entrepreneurship topics like customer discovery, go-to market strategy, fundraising, etc. Listen to world-class advice from HBS faculty, alumni, and other experts that could help grow your venture.

KEY: **DON'T MISS EVENT**

JOINER PATH ^{JP}

Is becoming a joiner right for me:

- Attend Rock/CPD career panel

What does a startup job search look like?

- Meet with a CPD career coach
- Visit Baker Library for help targeting startups

Learn about HBS Resources by attending E-ship Day and reading Rock/i-lab Newsletters.

Build relevant skills and experiences by joining:

- Startup Bootcamp team
- HBS Clubs
- Rock and i-lab sessions
- Apply for a Student i-lab Membership

Meet with potential startups who might be hiring—Check out the Club's plans for visiting startups over break via West Trek, NYC Trek, and other locations

Build your knowledge of the trends in different startup industries:

- Attend Tech, CAML, and E-ship Club speaker series and conferences
- Research at Baker Library (Research Consultants and Gather Research Databases)
- Attend Rock Summer Fellowship info session

Participate in **Startup Bootcamp**.

Go on **Club Treks** to visit startups, VCs, and tech companies in different hotspots (**Tech Club** and **E-ship Club**).

Sign up for **Startup Toolkit Summer Intensive Program (SIP)**.

Getting a job at a startup is a networked path and individual search. Throughout your time at HBS, use resources such as the Rock Center, EIRs, Baker Library's Research Consultants, HBS Club Newsletters, and the many connections of HBS to global startup regions.

Identify potential startup companies to target for your job search:

- Check out HBS Club newsletters to be informed of job opportunities

Attend **Tech, CAML, and E-ship Club speaker series and conferences to network with influencers and decision makers.**

Apply as a Joiner to the **Rock Summer Fellowship program**.

Build entrepreneurship and tech skills:

- The Entrepreneurial Manager (TEM)

Attend "Entering StartUpLand" presentation with Jeff Bussgang.

Work at a startup and serve as a **Rock Summer Fellow**.

Apply for a **Student i-lab Membership**.

Take **EC Courses** to build startup skills and experience:

- Product Management (PM)
- Entrepreneurial Sales 101
- Launching Technology Ventures
- Startup Operations
- Field X (provides funding)

Get additional startup experience:

- Work on a project for a startup for credit through an Independent Project

Attend **Tech, CAML, Blockchain, AI, and E-ship Club speaker series and conferences to network with influencers and decision makers.**

Map out your startup search process and approach:

- CPD career coach
- Rock Center staff
- HBS professors

Connect with potential startups around post-school roles.

Develop target list of companies to research and prep for outreach.

Sign up for **Immersive Field Courses (IFC)** to Israel, India, and Silicon Valley.

Map out your startup search process and approach:

- CPD career coach
- Rock Center staff
- HBS professors

Take **EC Courses** to build startup skills and experience:

- Scaling Technology Ventures
- Entrepreneurial Sales
- Startup Operations Studio (funding)
- 5 Technologies that Will Change the World
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Field Y
- Tough Tech Venture Labs

Map out your startup search process and approach:

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- HBS professors

Attend "Entering StartUpLand" presentation with Jeff Bussgang.

INVESTOR PATH ^{IP}

Attend the **Rock/CPD Career Panels** to learn about careers in VC.

Learn about the role of a VC/Investor and recruiting approach. Meet with:

- Rock Venture Capital Advisors
- CPD career coach

Build relevant startup experience to make you a better investor—join a Startup Bootcamp team.

Plug in to the **Investor community**:

- Join the Venture Capital/Private Equity, Entrepreneurship through Acquisition (ETA), and Impact Investing Clubs.
- Attend the VC/PE and search fund conferences and learn about VC treks.

Get additional investor experience:

- Apply for one of the campus Scout programs led by prominent VC firms (Dorm Room Fund, Rough Draft Ventures, Pear VC, Lightspeed, NFX, etc.)

Join a **Startup Bootcamp team** and get startup experience to help you become a better investor.

Participate in **The Venture Capital and Private Equity Club Annual Conference**.

Attend the **Rock/CPD VC Panels** to learn about careers in VC.

Join an early-stage VC firm and apply as a Joiner to the **Rock Summer Fellowship program**.

Build entrepreneurship and tech skills:

- The Entrepreneurial Manager (TEM)

Intern with a **VC firm** and serve as a **Rock Summer Fellow**.

Take **EC Courses** applicable to VC/Investing:

- Venture Capital and Private Equity
- Private Equity Finance
- Financial Management of Smaller Firms
- Launching Technology Ventures
- Investing for Impact

Participate in **The Venture Capital and Private Equity Club Annual Conference**.

Sign up for **Immersive Field Courses (IFC)** to Israel, India, and Silicon Valley.

Take **EC Courses** applicable to VC/Investing:

- Venture Capital Journey
- Scaling Technology Ventures
- Entrepreneurship through Acquisition
- Entrepreneurial Finance
- Entrepreneurial Sales 102
- Entrepreneurship Outside the Valley
- Scaling Minority Businesses
- Systems to Scale Growth-Stage Ventures (SGSV)
- Sustainable Investing

ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY

Rock Center for Entrepreneurship