



PolyU InnoHub

Nurturing Innovation & Entrepreneurship ACE

‘Be a centre of excellence for staff
and student entrepreneurship
through a two-tier strategy
addressing both broad practice
and depth.’

—— Strategic Plan of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
(2019/20 – 2024/25)

ACE

noun [C]
UK /eis/ US /eis/
noun [C] (skilled person)
a person who is very skilled at something

Action / Community / Education



At The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), we believe in the strength of action, community and education to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship, building our ecosystem around them.

Action: just do it

Entrepreneurship is about embracing uncertainty. PolyU's various grants and funds encourage future entrepreneurs to step out of their comfort zone and make their first, yet important step in the journey to becoming entrepreneurs.

Community: together we're stronger

Entrepreneurship is a tough and lonely journey. By leveraging the resources of our partners, we render support to students and entrepreneurs through coworking spaces, referral programmes and many other exchange and networking events.

Education: learn, unlearn and relearn

Entrepreneurship can be taught and learned. However, it is more a sport than a science. Just like any athlete, an entrepreneur has to train in every facet and in his / her mind-set, skills and knowledge. PolyU provides learning opportunities through educational programmes of all kinds.

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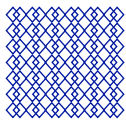
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Ecosystem Snapshot



380

Start-ups Supported



90⁺

Student Projects
Supported



60%

Survival Rate
(after 3 years of operation)



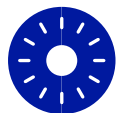
280⁺

International and
Regional Awards



1070⁺

Entrepreneurs Nurtured



114,000⁺

Training Hours Offered



HK\$900M⁺

Follow-on Funding Secured

(as of Jul 2021)



GRANTS & FUNDS



Since 2011, PolyU has been funding, mentoring and providing students and young graduates with incubation support through the PolyU Micro Fund Scheme, so they can embrace their entrepreneurial goals.

Entrepreneurship Grants

Under the ethos and spirit of ‘Do Well Do Good’, the University offers different entrepreneurship funding schemes targeting specific market segments and phases of the early-stage start-up value chain, partnering with government and government-supported incubation funding agencies such as HKSTP, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) and the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). Leveraging its partners’ funding and incubation support, current funding schemes offer grants of more than HK\$10 million per year, supporting 50 to 60 early-stage start-ups and student entrepreneurship projects.

Investment Fund

In order to provide further funding support to impactful PolyU start-ups and spin outs, a new investment fund, PolyU Entrepreneurship Investment Fund, is now being rolled out to support their scale-up and further development, along with co-investment partners.

	Embryonic	Proof-of-Concept	Seed to Angel Stage	Growth Stage (Pre-A)
 Students / Alumni	PolyU Student Entrepreneurial Proof-of-Concept (POC) Funding Scheme	PolyU Micro Fund Scheme (Acceleration Stage)	PolyU Micro Fund Scheme (Incubation Stage) PolyU Maker Fund Programme	PolyU Entrepreneurship Investment Fund
 Faculty / Research Postgraduates		PolyU Maker Fund Programme	PolyU Tech Launchpad Fund (TLF) Scheme	



PolyU Student Entrepreneurial Proof-of-Concept (POC) Funding Scheme

((www.polyupoc.hk))

The POC Funding Scheme is a funding initiative launched in 2017 as one of the key entrepreneurship education components at PolyU. It aims to work with academic departments to encourage their students to practise entrepreneurship and pursue it, funding their quests to innovate and compete.

Eligible students / fresh graduates will benefit from the services and resources, including a Proof-of-Concept Fund up to HK\$10,000 to support prototyping, market validation and related expenses in order for them to participate in reputable entrepreneurship and innovation competitions. Other opportunities include inter-disciplinary training in entrepreneurship, use of workspaces at PolyU InnoHub and business consultation with its entrepreneurs-in-residence (EIRs).



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

PolyU current students and fresh graduates (three-year past graduation)



Nature

Grant supporting student participation in entrepreneurship and innovation competitions



Grant

Up to HK\$10,000



No. of Projects Supported per Year

Around 60



Application Period

All year round



Training Element

Preparing for competitions



PolyU Micro Fund Scheme

((www.polyu.edu.hk/ife/microfund))

PolyU Micro Fund Scheme is the first funding initiative to cultivate innovative and entrepreneurial ambience in the PolyU community and to promote knowledge transfer and commercialisation of PolyU's innovations and technologies. Launched in 2011, the Micro Fund has been nurturing socially responsible young people with a 'Do Well Do Good' entrepreneurship spirit through hands-on business endeavours.

With a seed fund of up to HK\$120,000 for each awarded start-up and much needed pre-incubation support, PolyU aims to bolster the awardees' implementation of high-quality business propositions with a positive social impact.



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

PolyU current students, alumni and GBA Startup Postdocs



Nature

Grant supporting the transformation of bright 'Do Well Do Good' ideas into sustainable businesses



Grant

Up to HK\$120,000
» Acceleration Stage: Kickstart Fund of HK\$30,000
» Incubation Stage: Seed Fund of HK\$90,000



No. of Projects / Start-ups Supported per Cohort

» Acceleration Stage: around 35
» Incubation Stage: around 15



Application Period

Once a year



Training Element

5-week Lean Launchpad Programme

Note :

Direct entry / fast track to HKSTP / Cyberport / Hong Kong Design Centre seed funding or incubation programmes available



PolyU Maker Fund Programme (under YDF)

((www.polyumakerfund.hk))

Launched in 2021, PolyU Maker Fund Programme is a brand-new initiative tailor-made for Hong Kong's young makers and hardware developers to realise their ideas through the support of Youth Development Fund (YDF). The Programme aims to accelerate local hardware start-ups' product development from ideas to production, riding on the manufacturing capabilities of Shenzhen and Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities.



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

Hong Kong permanent residents
aged between 18 to 40



Nature

Financial support and comprehensive training
accelerating product development of local
hardware start-ups



Grant

HK\$600,000



No. of Start-ups Supported per Cohort

12



Training Element

- » 3-day Hardware Bootcamp
- » 3-weekly acceleration training
- » Workshops and trainings throughout the 24-month incubation period



PolyU Tech Launchpad Fund (TLF) Scheme (under TSSSU)

((www.polyulaunchpadfund.hk))

With an annual funding support amounted to HK\$8 million from ITC under Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU), the TLF Scheme aims to accelerate the growth of early-stage technology start-ups founded by PolyU students, graduates and professors offering grants up to HK\$1.5 million for start-ups with PolyU or other innovative technology.



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

Early-stage technology start-ups founded by PolyU students, alumni and professors



Nature

Grant supporting and accelerating the growth of technology start-ups



Grant

Up to HK\$1.5 million



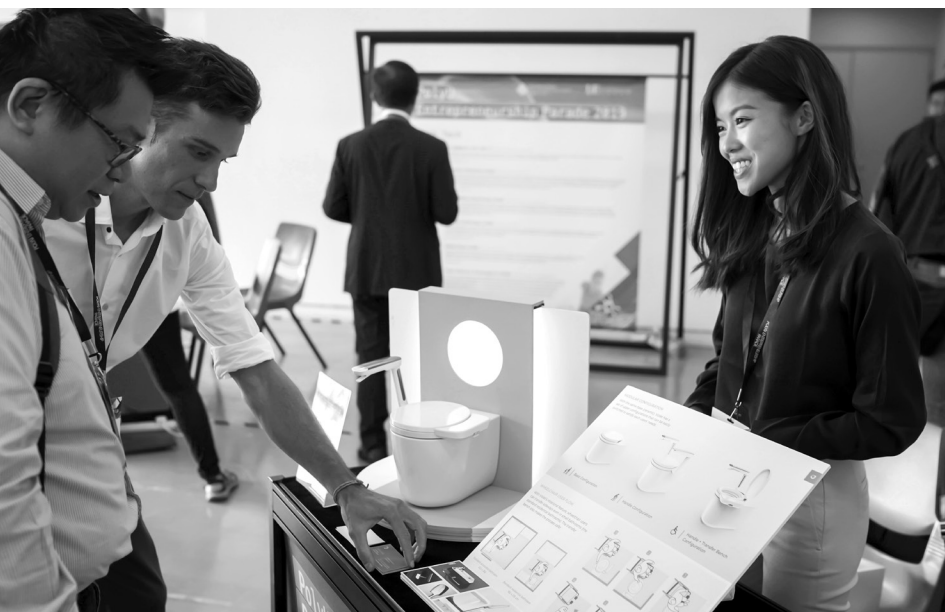
No. of Start-ups Supported per Cohort

Around 6 - 10



Application Period

Around Aug to Sep each year



PolyU Entrepreneurship Investment Fund

The Entrepreneurship Investment Fund is positioned as an early-stage equity investment fund focusing on seed to pre-A stages. With HK\$50 million in funds, it aims to support impactful PolyU start-ups with no more than HK\$4 million per investment in the form of direct equity investment or convertible loan.



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

Innovative and technology start-ups founded / co-founded by PolyU academic staff, researchers, students and alumni



Nature

Equity investment



Investment Fund

Up to HK\$4 million



No. of Start-ups Supported per Year

No quota within the total funding pool



Application Period

All year round



- »Coworking Spaces
- »Membership Societies
- »Partnership

CONVERGENCE
CONNECTION
COLLABORATION
COMMUNITY

Coworking Spaces

PolyU InnoHub (Hong Kong)

Located on the fourth floor of Jockey Club Innovation Tower on the PolyU main campus, InnoHub has been dedicated to promoting communal innovations and entrepreneurship in partnerships with academia, businesses, entrepreneurial intermediaries and angel investors since March 2017.

PolyU InnoHub (Shenzhen)

To further develop the GBA entrepreneurship support platform, InnoHub (Shenzhen) has also been established at the PolyU Shenzhen Base in the Nanshan District to support start-ups, tapping into the huge market, industry and government resources available in Shenzhen and the GBA.

PolyU InnoHub (Hong Kong)

4/F, Jockey Club Innovation Tower, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

Start-ups, spin outs and project teams supported by polyu entrepreneurial programmes or founded by PolyU students, alumni and academic staff



Space

Fixed desk: 60 seats
Hot desk: 60 seats



Period of Use

Up to 12 months



Application Period

Once a year



Workspace with shared amenities/

Four working areas with controlled access and several open workspaces with a total of 120 seats

Event Venue /

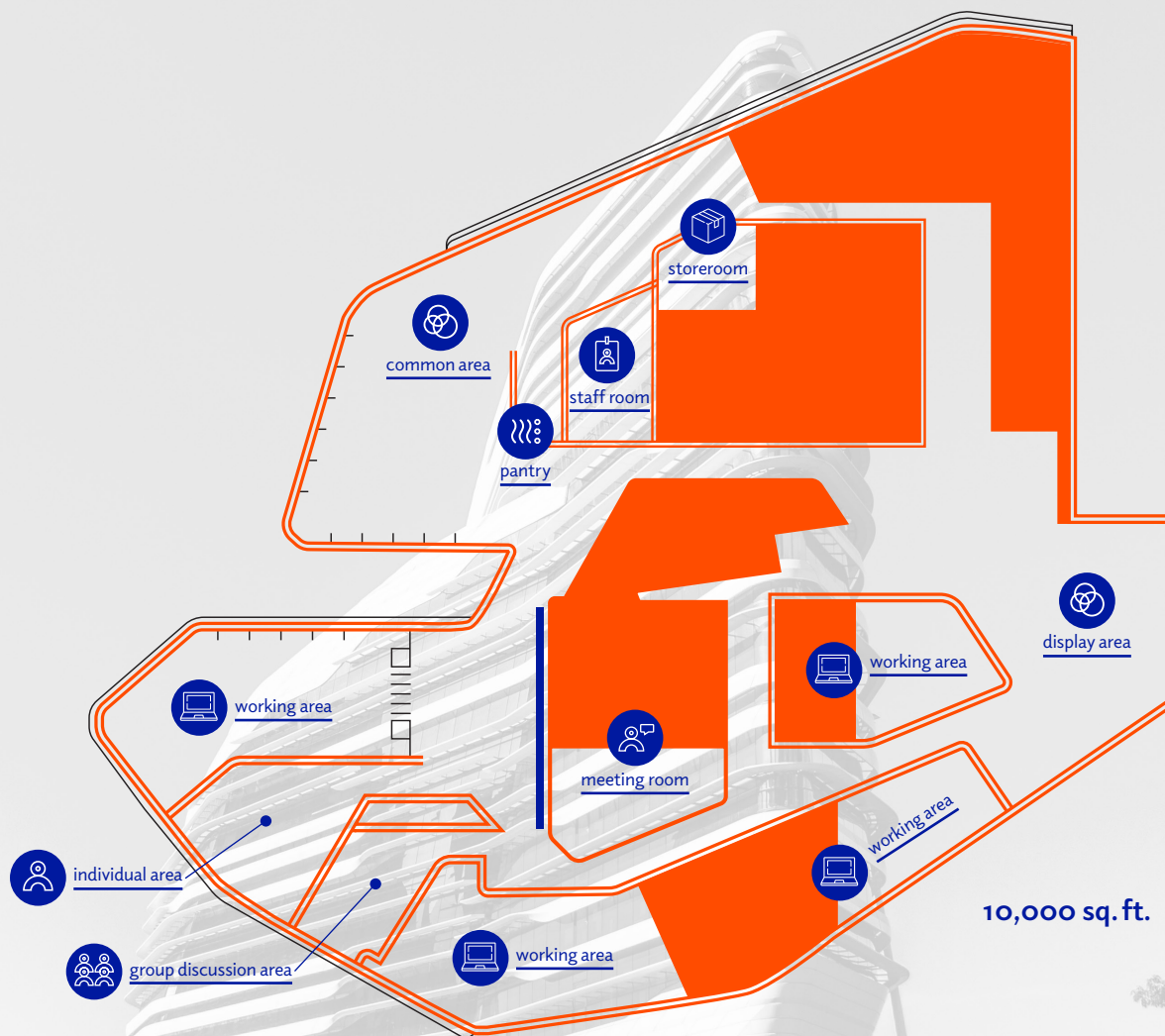
Hosts up to 40 people for entrepreneurship / innovation events

Display Area /

Showcases outstanding innovations by students and start-ups

Business Clinic /

Regular one-to-one consultancy for student projects / start-ups by seasoned EIRs



PolyU InnoHub (Shenzhen)

3/F, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 18 Yuexing First Road, South District,
High-tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District, Shenzhen



QUICK FACT



Eligibility

Fast Admission:

- » Start-ups and project teams supported by PolyU entrepreneurial programmes
- » Start-ups founded by PolyU alumni
- » GBA Startup Postdocs



Space

Individual office room: 15
(4 to 19 seats each)
Cubicle: 42 seats
Hot desk: 12 seats



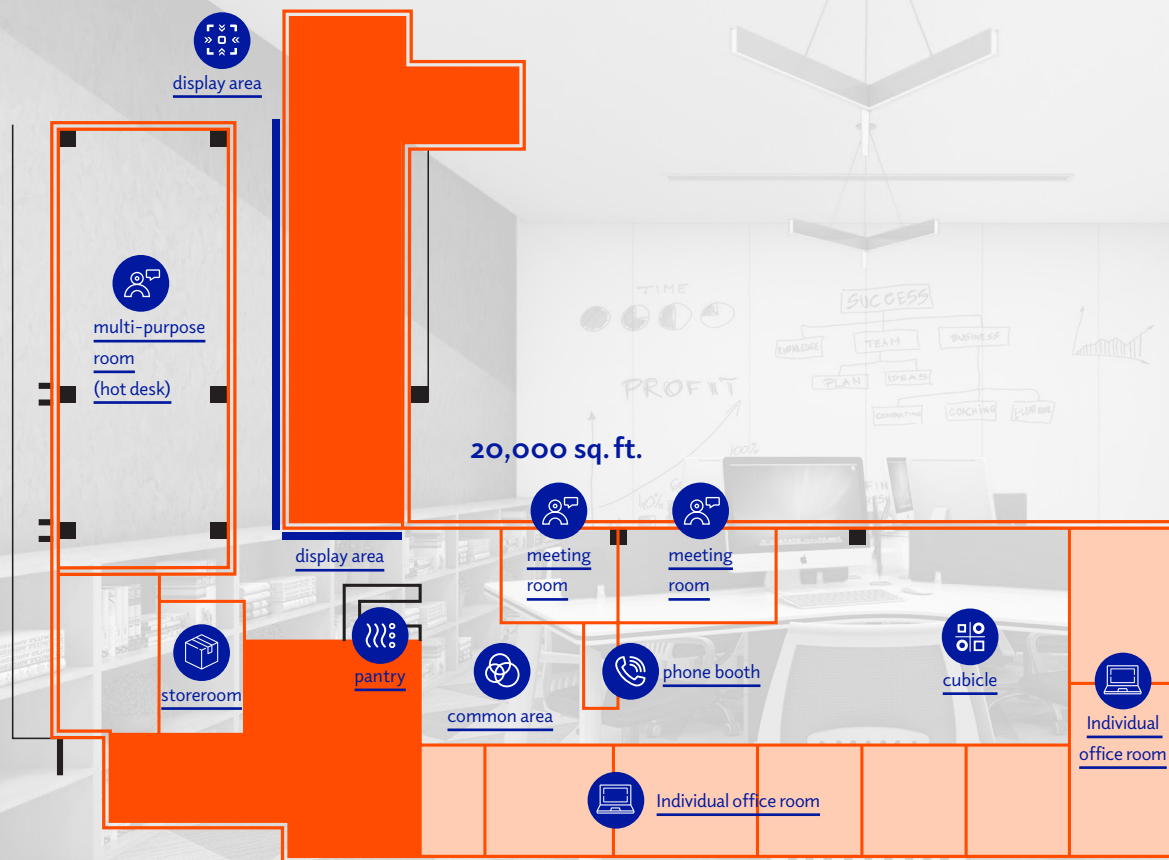
Period of Use

12 months



Application Period

All year round (while seats last)



Workspace with shared amenities/

Individual office rooms, cubicles and hot desks with a total of 168 seats

Event Venue /

Hosts up to 100 people for entrepreneurship / innovation events

Display Area /

Showcases outstanding innovations by start-ups

Event & Activity /

Regular workshops and events to connect start-ups to different resources

*There are a few individual office rooms scattered on other floors.

Membership Societies

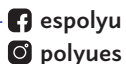
Entrepreneurship Society (ES)

Established in 2015, the Entrepreneurship Society of PolyU is a student society seeking to cultivate students' entrepreneurial spirit and mind-sets, while stimulating their interest in innovation and entrepreneurship through a series of student initiated and organised activities, including entrepreneurs sharing talks, seminars, visits and tours, as well as entrepreneurship competitions, all administered and supported by Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office (KTEO).

Core Membership Benefits

- » Unlimited access to entrepreneurship sharing
- » Offshore entrepreneurial tours and internships
- » Advisory services, supported by KTEO
- » Sponsorship for selected entrepreneurship activities
- » Regular updates on entrepreneurship events

Quick Fact



Eligibility: PolyU current students



Period of Membership: Until graduation/ the end of exchange period



Application Period: All year round



Note: One-off membership fee of HK\$50

Poly-preneurs®

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the term 'Poly-preneurs®' was coined by PolyU in 2012 to acknowledge the entrepreneurial spirit of its alumni who have contributed toward advancing Hong Kong's economy by starting their own businesses. Through the Poly-preneurs® community, we are creating a networking resource among alumni entrepreneurs that also serves as a great platform for strengthening ties between the Poly-preneurs® and their alma mater.

Quick Fact



Eligibility: Entrepreneurs graduated from PolyU



Period of Membership: Life long



Application Period: All year round



Tel: 3400 2676 | **Email:** poly.preneur@polyu.edu.hk

Partnership

Local, Greater Bay Area & Beyond

KTEO has long adopted a 'PolyU + X' partnership strategy in its different entrepreneurship programmes, collaborating with like-minded partners for value-added synergy. Through PolyU InnoHub, Greater Bay Area International Institute for Innovations (GBA I3) and the PolyU Foshan campus, PolyU aims to further cultivate and facilitate regional community partnerships and collaborations to drive regional innovation and entrepreneurship.

By collaborating with entrepreneurial intermediaries such as HKSTP and Cyberport, and angel investors like the Hong Kong Business Angel Network and TIE Hong Kong, PolyU has been able in the past few years to launch different programmes with different focuses incubating young start-ups and encouraging entrepreneurs.



Fast Track Opportunities & Co-incubation

PolyU Micro Fund Scheme (Acceleration Stage)

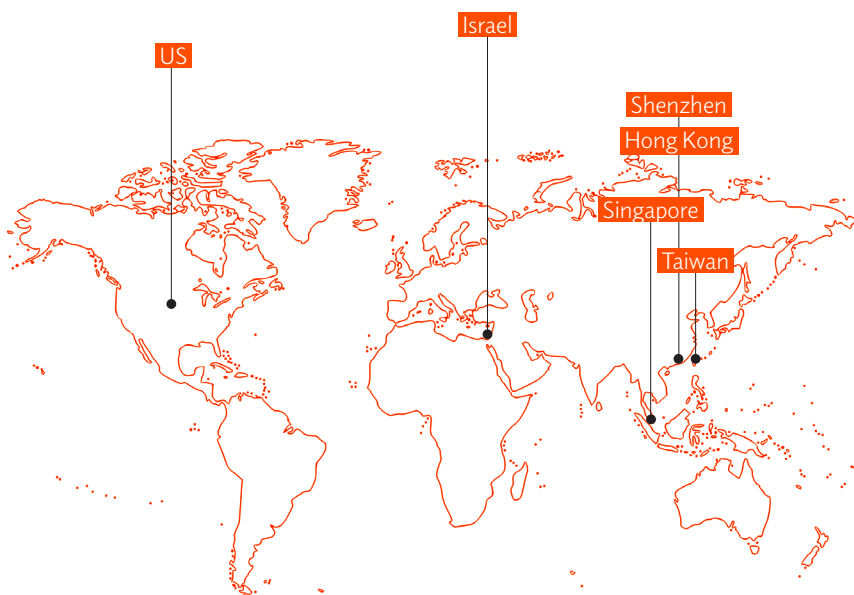
- » Cyberport's Cyberport Creative Micro Fund
- » HKSTP's Science and Technology Entrepreneur Programme (STEP)

PolyU Micro Fund Scheme (Incubation Stage)

- » Cyberport's Incubation Programme
- » HKSTP's Incu-App and Incu-Tech Programmes
- » Hong Kong Design Centre's Design Incubation Programme

PolyU InnoHub also aims to build a partnership network for co-incubations, collaborations and the exchange of information. Major partners engaged in regular local collaborations include MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node, HKSTP, Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund, corporate incubators such as The Mills and HKT, and overseas enterprises like Amazon Web Services, etc.

Global Collaborations





EDUCATION

Education & Training

Driven by an increasingly globalised economy and dynamically changing society, future leaders have to be agile, innovative and entrepreneurial to adapt to new developments, while embracing and overcoming the accompanying challenges. This belief drives PolyU to emphasise strongly and advocate entrepreneurship education to nurture our students as future leaders equipped to be creative, innovative and with the entrepreneurial mind-set, skills, knowledge and practice to succeed.

In addition to courses that offer credits, through the KTEO, PolyU has been working closely with industry and community partners to develop a highly experiential and action-based entrepreneurship education programme for students, young graduates, researchers and start-up founders to meet their requirements and challenges along with their entrepreneurial study and pursuit of their goals.

MINDSET

- Risk-taking
- Resilient
- Action-oriented
- Dare to Change / Pivot, etc.

PRACTICE

- Internship
- Start-up Competitions
- Start-up Creation, etc.

KNOWLEDGE

- Idea Generation
- Business Modelling
- Lean Start-up
- Design Thinking
- Entrepreneurial Finance, etc.

SKILLS & CAPACITY

- Problem-solving
- Creativity
- Leadership
- Persuasive Communications, etc.

Training / Learning Programmes along the Entrepreneurship Journey

M: MINDSET
S: SKILLS & CAPACITY
K: KNOWLEDGE
P: PRACTICE



Start-up Internship & Immersion Programme

In the summer of 2019, a 50-day Shenzhen-Hong Kong Start-up Immersion • Internship Programme was organised to offer students opportunities to gain first-hand work experience as interns at start-ups and technology companies in Shenzhen.

Besides entrepreneurship training, a total of 76 students from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas also visited several technology companies in Shenzhen and Guangzhou as well as technology incubators. While the overseas participants continued their journey in Hong Kong to visit incubators and for 2-day job shadowing, their PolyU peers remained in Shenzhen to start their five-week internship.

This first-of-its-kind programme connected like-minded young people from around the world by transcending language barriers and cultural differences. The programme will continue to run and expand with more internship opportunities in both the GBA, Hong Kong and overseas.

In addition, KTEO has created a student talent pool to help connect start-ups with talented students for them to potentially engage in start-ups' innovative projects.





Hong Kong Techathon

(www.hongkongtechathon.com)

Started by PolyU in 2015, Hong Kong Techathon has become a cross-university platform for software developers, engineers, designers, marketers and entrepreneurs to work collaboratively in one week's time and come up with ideas and prototypes before pitching them for seed funds and incubation support. Participants are able to meet like-minded teammates from different backgrounds and receive training, supported by a group of mentors with hands-on start-up experience.



Lean Launchpad (LLP) Programme

(www.polyullp.hk)

To foster knowledge transfer of PolyU research technologies and nurture ‘technopreneurs’, PolyU launched LLP Programme in early 2018. Modelled after similar programmes from the US National Science Foundation I-Corps and Lean LaunchPad Singapore, PolyU LLP Programme is a 10-week evidence-based journey that helps research and start-up teams uncover the market and application potential of their scientific research through rigorous market validation and guidance from experienced industry mentors.

Fundraising Bootcamp

First launched in 2017, the Fundraising Bootcamp is a three-day workshop covering a range of important topics such as start-up fundraising, including the anatomy of investment term sheets, negotiating with investors, pitching to them and more. Taught by experienced investors, participating teams learn how to work with them.



GBA Startup Postdoc Programme

The GBA Startup Postdoc Programme seeks to transform recent PhDs into ‘technopreneurs’, translating research outcomes into real-world impact through technology ventures. Incorporating entrepreneurship courses, applied research and pre-incubation, it is the first of its kind in Asia to nurture future ‘technopreneurs’ for their leap into the entrepreneurial journey. It welcomes globally recent PhD graduates to a 24-month programme to turn their research outcomes into real-world impact through their own entrepreneurship.

Leveraging on PolyU’s and Shenzhen partners’ own local industry networks and government sponsorship, GBA Startup Postdoc candidates will enjoy a very competitive package of supports assistance including a monthly stipend, access to research facilities, government grants, start-up subsidies and entrepreneurship training with dual academic and business supervision, all to support the commercialisation of their research through a GBA technology start-up.

Entrepreneurship Enrichment / Theme-based Workshops

Practical workshops have been regularly organised for students and PolyU-supported start-ups to improve both skills and practical knowledge about launching and operating a business. These include team building, sales negotiation, intellectual property protection and social media marketing.

Short Courses

This series of four to five-week-long short courses on practical topics such as crowdfunding strategy, fintech, design, content marketing, platforms and economics have been organised for the PolyU start-ups community. Insightful sharing and guidance from both experienced industry trainers and peer start-ups equip young entrepreneurs with knowledge about the latest trends and teaches them a lot of useful tips along with the dos and don’ts.



Market Exploration & Exchange Tours

PolyU's effort to reach out overseas and build partnerships has generated positive results, with some start-ups in recent years expanding into other markets in the Greater China region and at ASEAN countries. Every year, PolyU's start-ups participate in various outreaching tours:

- » **Meet Taipei @ Taipei**
the largest entrepreneurship conference and exhibition event in Taiwan
- » **Innovfest Unbound @ Singapore**
exploring business and market expansion opportunities in South East Asia
- » **Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) @ Shanghai**
one of China's biggest entrepreneurship conference and exhibition events
- » **Shenzhen Hi-Tech Fair @ Shenzhen**
a major innovation expo with a long history and tradition in China

The Entrepreneurship Society, PolyU's student group, has also organised study tours to Mainland China to enrich their student members' understanding of China market and broaden their horizons on developing entrepreneurship. Visits to prestart-up centres, participation in conferences and joint-universities activities let students experience the entrepreneurial culture and expand their network.

Interactive Dialogues

Outstanding PolyU-supported start-ups have met for interactive dialogue with top managers from well-known corporations like Jardines Group, HSBC and New World Development, exchanging views on challenges and opportunities facing entrepreneurs.



PolyU Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office

As a dedicated business, industry and community partner, PolyU is committed to the creation and transfer throughout the world of technology and knowhow with application value. In pursuit of knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship, KTEO was established to be an important platform in forging closer links between academics and business for each other's benefits. Harnessing the University's expertise and resources, KTEO provides a wide range of services, enabling entrepreneurship to develop, helping industry create innovative products, and strengthening the competitive edge of enterprises in the global marketplace.

How KTEO facilitates closer collaboration between industry and PolyU:

- » Technology transfer and commercialisation
- » Entrepreneurship development
- » Technology marketing and industrial networking
- » Partnership and executive development

Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship Office
(Entrepreneurship)

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