



Young Founders Lab

Build your start-up in high school



Founded & run by Harvard entrepreneurs



We are an elite incubator for high school students

Young Founders Lab is a real-world start-up bootcamp based on incubators such as the Y-Combinator. Students will have the option to work individually or in groups to build a revenue generating start-up.

The program is not easy - it's not for everyone - but if you're looking to build a start-up in high school then it might be for you.

Why start a business in high school?



Real world impact

Address real world problems to create impact



Hands-on experience

Work in tech and build a business



Connections

Network with peers, entrepreneurs and investors globally

We run the world's most successful high school programs

4200+

Applications

22,000+

Mentoring hours

62

Countries

\$390,000+

In financial aid

We will help you build a revenue-generating start-up in high school

Your start-up mentor background

Funded by



Studied at



Worked at



Example founder mentors

Get mentored by entrepreneurs who have raised millions in fundraising,
and worked at Google, Microsoft, and Meta



FINTECH LAUNCH (STEALTH MODE)

Industry: Finance, Tech

Led by Kevin Junker,
Founder & CEO,
Cambridge Uni, Google & Mckinsey alum

Fintech Launch is focused on bridging the gap between financial products for individuals in markets including the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia.



BILLION DOLLAR STARTUP IDEAS

Industry: Tech, Media

Led by Michael Bervell,
Founder & CEO,
HBS MBA & Microsoft alum

Billion Dollar Startup Ideas is one of the world's largest generator and aggregator of unicorn-level start-up ideas, with a reach of over 850,000 people.



FAIR OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Industry: Tech, Non-profit

Led by Luke Heine,
Founder & CEO,
Harvard & YC alum, Microsoft

Recognized in Forbes, NYT, and the Harvard Education Review, Fair Opportunity Project sends free college application advice to 63,000 public educators and provides free 1:1 mentorship to hundreds of students.

YFL Program Structure: Team Based and Individual



Kickoff



Phase 1

Learn to build your start-up

Business fundamentals & business ideation



Phase 2

Build the prototype

Market & user research to build an MVP



Phase 3

Launch your start-up and gain traction

Growth strategies, marketing, sales & negotiations



Demo Day

YFL Program Format: Team Based

- 4-week entrepreneurship boot camp
- 100% online
- Live interactive classes
- Workshops every weekday, 12-3 PM ET (9 AM - 12 PM PT)
- Additional 5 hours per week of team-based work
- High school students
- Program start date:
June 9-29, 2025 (Group Program, Summer 1)
August 4-24, 2025 (Group Program, Summer 2)
- Start-up idea and coding skills not required

Interactive Online Sessions

- Workshops and skill-building sessions
- Panel discussions
- Live Q&A sessions
- Case Studies
- Group work (Building your own start-up)

A Global Student Community

- Exchange ideas and brainstorm with the student cohort
- Access to exclusive opportunities
 - ✔ Internships
 - ✔ Reference letters
 - ✔ Alumni network

Continuous Guidance and Mentorship

- Renowned instructors and guest speakers
- Weekly office hours
 - ✔ Startup mentors
 - ✔ Investors
 - ✔ Founders

YFL Program Format: Individual

- Weekly one-on-one mentorship session with startup coach
- Support from program management team
- 100% online
- 1-hour per week of personalized mentorship
- 5-hours per week of student time commitment
- Flexible timings
- Flexible start-date
- Start-up idea and coding skills not required

Interactive Events

- Fireside chats
- Remote socials with other solo founders from the cohort

A Global Student Community

- Exchange ideas and brainstorm with the student cohort each working on their individual projects
- Access to exclusive opportunities
 - ✔ Internships
 - ✔ Reference letters
 - ✔ Alumni network

One-on-one Guidance and Mentorship

- Renowned instructors
- Weekly office hours with external and internal mentors



Our Founding Story

Hi, my name is Stephen, and I'm one of the co-founders of Young Founders Lab. I grew up in a small town in Missouri, and the closest thing I saw to a start-up growing up was a pizzeria my friend's dad started (and shut down after six months). Entrepreneurship was just not something I was exposed to.

Going to Harvard as an undergraduate changed my perspective on start-ups and what was possible. Suddenly, my friends were talking about raising venture capital, running real businesses, and dropping

out of school. My two best friends from college each went on to start-up companies, the first, Luke, raised money from Y-Combinator and is now one of our mentors. The second, Greg, has also crushed it - raising tens of millions from world-class venture capitalists like Andreessen Horowitz. I ended up working at McKinsey & Company for a few years before returning to start my own start-up (you're a part of that start-up if you're reading this!).

Greg, Luke and I didn't have any exposure to start-ups in high school (we lived in Nevada, Minnesota, and Missouri, respectively). So, I founded Young Founders Lab to create a bridge for talented, ambitious high school students to build their own startup. Our goal is to give you all the resources you need to succeed as a young professional: training from my time at McKinsey, coaching from world-class coaches, and the structure to build a start-up that generates real revenue.

In that sense, we are part incubator, part professional development training program. For many, this is their first time working on a start-up, but for almost all of our participants it won't be their last. I can't wait to see what you'll build!

- Stephen

Our alumni go on to the world's top universities

In the 2022-2023 admissions cycle, our program alumni were accepted to top undergraduate degrees including every single Ivy League university, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Oxford and Cambridge



7

YALE
acceptances



9

UPENN
acceptances



4

STANFORD
acceptances



15

CORNELL
acceptances



8

COLUMBIA
acceptances



17

UC BERKELEY
acceptances

A survey of +340 alumni that applied to universities in 2022-23 showed that 20% of our alumni who applied to an Ivy League university or Stanford got in - **4X higher than the general rate of acceptance at these universities!**



Our program alumni received scholarships worth more than an estimated 1 million USD such as the Trustee Scholarship at the University of Southern California (full ride), full scholarships to the University of Toronto, the Zollman Scholarship at Smith College (college's highest scholarship) and the Presidential Scholarship at Bryn Mawr College.

Program Outline	Team	Individual
# of Hours of Live Interactive Workshops	30	-
# of Hours of One-on-One Mentorship	-	12
Goal Output	Launch of a revenue generating business	
Cost and Duration	\$2900 (4 weeks)	\$3500 (12 weeks)

Our Application Process

Building a start-up is hard. That is why we only take the best.



Step 1

Fill out online application form

Step 2

Wait as the admission team evaluates your application (The worst part)

Step 3

Interview with our team

Step 4

Receive admission decision

Step 5

Begin your entrepreneurial journey

Application Deadlines

SPRING REGULAR DEADLINE:

February 9, 2025

PROGRAM DATES:

March 3, 2025 (Individual Program)

SUMMER PROGRAMS:

Summer Priority Admission Deadline:

March 9, 2025

Summer Deadline:

May 11, 2025

PROGRAM DATES:

June 2, 2025 (Individual Program)

June 9-29, 2025 (Group Program, Summer 1)

August 4-24, 2025 (Group Program, Summer 2)

Application link

<https://airtable.com/apprzr1j8zGIMBupG/shrZU6Hxuui9nlq4j>



Contact us

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