

GEORGE SHULTZ INNOVATION FUND

Managed by the Polsky Center, the George Shultz Innovation Fund provides critical early capital to groundbreaking University of Chicago ventures and technologies that have the greatest promise to transform society.



OVERVIEW:

The George Shultz Innovation Fund invests in promising startups from an ecosystem that includes the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, Fermilab, and the Marine Biological Laboratory. The mission of the George Shultz Innovation Fund is to help researchers turn their innovations into ventures that advance cutting-edge technologies, generate significant financial returns, and create lasting impact for humankind.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Early-stage ventures, IP, technologies, and inventions created by faculty, students, staff, and researchers at UChicago as well as from its affiliated labs—such as Fermilab, Argonne, and the Marine Biological Lab—are eligible to apply to the Shultz Innovation Fund.

FUNDING CYCLES:

Funding cycles are held twice a year, starting with a broad call for applications and selecting top 4-6 most promising projects for a deeper due diligence. Teams accepted into the cycle receive hands-on mentorship and support before presenting in front of the investment committee at the finals for a chance at up to \$250,000 in funding.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

- **Ecosystem Introductions:** Gain access to experienced investors and industry experts through the Polsky Center's extensive network.
- **Mentoring:** Receive guidance and support from Polsky staff through regular goal-setting meetings and due diligence sessions with student associates.
- **Funding:** Opportunity to receive up to \$250,000 in funding to reach certain project milestones or advance the technology's development plan.

FALL 2020 INVESTMENT CYCLE KEY DATES:

Info Session

- **Thursday, August 27**
12:00-1:00 p.m., Virtual

Application Deadline

- **Thursday, September 10**
at 10:00 a.m.

Fall 2020 Finals

- **Thursday, November 19**
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Virtual

SPRING 2021 INVESTMENT CYCLE KEY DATES:

Application Deadline

- **Friday, February 19**
at 10:00 a.m.

Spring 2021 Finals

- **Wednesday, June 2**
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

APPLY ONLINE:

Applications are available online at: bit.ly/IF-application

QUESTIONS?

Contact Steve Lehmann, senior associate director of the Polsky Center's George Shultz Innovation Fund, at slehmann@uchicago.edu.