

RESOURCES FOR ALUMNI



At the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, we empower the entire University of Chicago community—including alumni, students, and faculty—to embrace an entrepreneurial mindset and tackle complex challenges.

Alumni benefit from a variety of resources, including startup accelerators, mentorship opportunities, and thought-provoking events, enabling them to launch new ventures, scale existing businesses, and innovate within their industries. Together, we foster a vibrant ecosystem where alumni, alongside other members of the UChicago community, can continue to grow as leaders and changemakers.

EXPERT ADVICE AND MENTORSHIP

If you are seeking advice on an entrepreneurial career or feedback on a new business idea, the Polsky Center can connect you with top business experts, entrepreneurs, and investors for one-on-one appointments. In addition, the Polsky Center staff are always happy to provide coaching and direct you to relevant resources.

// Polsky Mentorship Program

Through the Polsky Mentorship Program, alumni can book virtual one-on-one meetings with experienced entrepreneurs, investors, and experts in key areas such as law, marketing, and accounting.

// Entrepreneurs- and Investors-in-Residence

The Polsky Center's Entrepreneurs-in-Residence and Investors-in-Residence provide mentorship and coaching—both in person and virtual—to the University of Chicago community, including alumni.

PROGRAMS, FUNDING, AND WORKSPACE FOR FOUNDERS

If you have a business idea and are ready to move it forward, or if you're seeking help scaling your venture, you can apply to one of our programs and access critical support.

// Polsky Build and Launch Accelerators

Through the Build and Launch Accelerators, University of Chicago students and alumni can spend the summer in Chicago working full time on their startup with a cohort of fellow entrepreneurs. Whether you are building the key elements of your venture and validating assumptions around markets and customers (Build Accelerator) or fundraising, selling, and gaining momentum (Launch Accelerator), you will have the resources, funding, and support to meet important milestones and move your venture forward.

// Polsky Founders' Circles

The Polsky Founders' Circles are offered as a partnership between the Polsky Center and the Harry L. Davis Center for Leadership at Chicago Booth. These collaborative coaching groups offer a virtual forum for founders of early- and growth-stage companies to connect with a peer network for mentorship and support. The program allows alumni founders to take stock of their company's challenges and opportunities, receive coaching from an expert, and learn from fellow founders.

// Polsky Founders' Fund Fellowship

The Polsky Founders' Fund Fellowship (PF3) is a resource available to graduating University of Chicago students who are committed to growing a company after graduation. In their first year after graduation, alumni entrepreneurs receive \$24,000 in funding in the form of a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE) to sustain momentum as they continue to work on their ventures.

// Polsky Science Accelerators

The Polsky Center offers three sector-specific accelerators in quantum, cleantech, and data science and AI for startups from around the world. Each accelerator consists of programs, funding, and resources designed to help founders reduce technical and market risk as they position their innovations for real-world impact.

RESOURCES FOR ALUMNI

(continued)

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

The Polsky Center hosts dozens of workshops and events each year—both in person and virtual—for the University of Chicago community. Plus, we make some of the content from these sessions available on demand through video recordings.

// Entrepreneurship Essentials Workshops

The Polsky Center's Entrepreneurship Essentials (E2) is a live, virtual workshop series offering tactical advice and education to founders. Taught by subject-matter experts, E2 workshops cover a wide range of topics such as marketing strategy, sales, and competitive analysis.

// Annual Conferences

Each year, the Polsky Center hosts in-person, industry-leading entrepreneurship conferences, including **Rattan L. Kohsa SeedCon**, focused on startups and early-stage investing, the **Chicago Booth Private Equity Conference**, and the **Booth-Kellogg Entrepreneurship through Acquisition Conference**. These conferences draw a broad audience of current students, alumni, as well as other entrepreneurship practitioners.

// On Demand Content

If you missed any of our events, be sure to tune in to the Entrepreneurship Essentials (E2) digital intro series. This series offers intro-level digital workshops on topics including entity formation, customer discovery, entrepreneurial sales, developing a pitch deck, and iterating on your business model. Our presenters include faculty, entrepreneurs-in-residence, alumni, and other experts in the Polsky network.

POLSKY EXCHANGE MEMBERSHIP

The Polsky Exchange is a startup incubator on 53rd St in Hyde Park. It features work and meeting spaces, a Small Business Development Center, and a full calendar of programming designed to help entrepreneurs launch and grow their ventures.

Membership is open on a rolling basis for alumni who have a business or have participated in a Polsky Center program. After submitting an interest form, alumni are invited to attend an orientation session to tour the space and learn more about the resources, facilities, policies, and membership expectations.

Once access is granted, alumni can begin using Polsky Exchange resources to further their business ventures and participate in Polsky Center programs and events.

UCHICAGO TALENT

Having access to top student talent can give early-stage startups and investment firms a unique advantage. The Polsky Center can help connect companies with talent at the University of Chicago—both MBA and undergraduate—ensuring that they have skilled and motivated students to help drive success.

// Entrepreneurial Internship Program (EIP)

The EIP provides early-stage startups an opportunity to hire top Chicago Booth MBA talent for full-time summer internships subsidized by Chicago Booth.

// Private Equity & Venture Capital (PE/VC) Lab

The PE/VC Lab enables private equity and venture capital firms worldwide to hire MBA students for part-time internships during the academic year. Students earn course credit, and host firms benefit from exposure to bright, energetic MBAs with strong analytical and management skills.

// Sterling Partners Investment Thesis Challenge (SPITC)

SPITC provides private equity firms with the opportunity to mentor Chicago Booth student teams as they develop original investment theses and recommend execution strategies to the firm.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay up-to-date on the latest entrepreneurial news from the Polsky Center.

// Connect



// Subscribe



ABOUT THE POLSKY CENTER

The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation advances innovative ideas and technologies from the University of Chicago ecosystem to the world. We are dedicated to supporting students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as other entrepreneurs and community-based small business owners in navigating the complex process of bringing new products, services, and research to market. Learn more about the Polsky Center at polsky.uchicago.edu.