Polsky Guide: Founding & Joining Startups

At Polsky, we are committed to helping students build successful entrepreneurial careers, and we've designed offerings to build skills and knowledge in various areas of entrepreneurship. The guide below outlines actionable steps you might take toward a **post-MBA career as a founder or member of a startup team**; however, this is not a one-size-fits-all pathway, and we encourage you to work with our team to tailor this guide to your goals.

Pre-MBA

1st Year

Summer

2nd Year

Post-Grad

Plug in to Polsky

- <u>Subscribe</u> to the Polsky newsletters.
- Familiarize yourself with Polsky's entrepreneurship offerings.
- Check out entrepreneurship content on <u>Polsky on Demand</u> and recorded <u>Entrepreneurship</u> <u>Essentials (E2) workshops</u>
- Reach out to the Polsky Center team – we want to meet you!
- Begin networking with Booth students and alumni in entrepreneurship.
- Founders: Start getting feedback and conducting customer research on your startup idea.
- Connect with your Booth Academic Advisor and Booth Career Services.

Engage with Polsky Offerings

- Review the "This Week at Polsky" email
- Meet with mentors in Polsky's <u>Entrepreneur-in-Residence</u> and <u>Mentorship</u> <u>Programs</u>.
- Join Entrepreneurs Unplugged
- Apply to join <u>Customer Discovery Bootcamp</u>
- Attend Polsky <u>Entrepreneurship Essentials</u> (E2) workshops and the <u>Collaboratorium</u>.
- Join the Booth EVC Group and apply to be a 2nd year co-chair.
- Founders: Continue refining your business model, conducting customer research, and building your team.
- Learn about and engage with the <u>New</u> <u>Venture Challenge</u> (NVC):
 - · Attend the NVC Kickoff (Oct)
 - Apply to the NVC (Oct Jan)
 - Join an NVC team (Feb/Mar)
- Volunteer for and attend SeedCon (Jan).
- Explore summer opportunities through Polsky's Entrepreneurial Internship Program or BUILD and LAUNCH Accelerator.
- Continue to network with Booth alumni in entrepreneurship.

Intern, Incubate, and Network

- Leverage your summer internship contacts to build your entrepreneurship network.
- Keep the Polsky team and Booth faculty up to date on your internship experience.
- Refine your full-time startup interests in terms of stage, industry, and geography.
- Create a target list of startups, and begin networking with Booth alumni to kick start recruiting.

Refine Your Career Plan

- Update your resume to reflect your summer experience.
- Take advantage of leadership and volunteer opportunities at Booth.
- Attend <u>Entrepreneurship</u> <u>Essentials</u> (E2) workshops.
- Attend <u>SeedCon</u> (Jan).
- If you did not participate in the <u>New Venture Challenge</u> or <u>BUILD or LAUNCH Accelerator</u> during your first year, consider applying now.
- Founders: Consider applying to the <u>Polsky Founders Fund</u> <u>Fellowship</u> (PF3).
- Check in regularly with the Polsky team, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, and other mentors.

Stay Connected

- Maintain relationships with the Polsky team and Booth faculty.
- Submit your alumni news for inclusion in the Polsky 10.
- Connect with the Polsky Center if you are interested in alumni engagement opportunities.
- Consider hosting Booth interns at your startup.
- Mentor current entrepreneurshipinterested students.
- Familiarize yourself with Polsky's alumni offerings, such as <u>Founders</u> Circles.
- Familiarize yourself with <u>Polsky</u> <u>Science and Technology</u> Accelerators
- Continue to utilize mentors in the <u>Entrepreneur-in-Residence</u> and <u>Mentorship Programs</u>.