SUMMER FOUNDERS
2019 Applications Now Open
We are giving University of Delaware student teams up to $10,000 to work on their Startup or Social Venture this summer

Important Dates

- Applications open February 18, 2019 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis
- Invitations to participate in the program will be offered to applicants beginning February 22nd and will continue until May 3rd.
- Apply here 2019 Summer Founders

About the Program*

- The program will take place over approximately 12 weeks from June 3 to August 20
- During this 12-week pre-accelerator program, students will receive a stipend while working to develop their ventures. The program includes weekly mentoring and educational sessions in addition to progress meetings with advisers.
- The program's flexible structure and individualized mentorship means that each team will work on achieving unique specific goals.
- The program will conclude with a presentation to mentors, advisors and stakeholders.
- Participants must commit to work during this period in the Venture Development Center, on the University of Delaware campus, Newark, DE.
- Participants must commit to work full-time on their funded project during this period and commit to not work in another internship or job during this period.
- Students accepted into the Summer Founders Program who also seek to earn course credit may enroll in ENTR450/650 - Business Accelerator for New Ventures. The curriculum embedded in Summer Founders will satisfy the course requirements of ENTR450/650. Regular summer tuition rates would apply.
About the Funding

- Funding is made possible through donations from entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs DO NOT and UD DOES NOT take ownership or equity in your business or non-profit and have NO governance or control of your business. All we ask is that you commit to working hard on your project over the course of the summer.
- All teams are encouraged to apply including teams of one person.
- The Director of Horn Entrepreneurship shall be the arbiter of all rules and rule clarifications.
- The Director reserves the right to disqualify any participants who violate these rules or the spirit of the program.

*Changes in program content or schedule may be made before and/or during the course of the program.

Eligibility

- All University of Delaware teams, regardless of college or major, are welcome to apply. All team members must be University of Delaware students.

Please see the FAQ below or email questions to us: hornprogram@udel.edu

FAQ

I am a graduate student. Can I apply to this program?

Yes. The program is open to any UD student with a business concept.

Is there additional funding available if we expect our team’s living costs to exceed the Summer Founders grant?

No. Currently, no additional funding will be supplied in excess of the Summer Founders grant.

My team consists of four members, do we each receive 25% of the grant?
We recommend you decide as a team how to allocate the full grant among each team member. It is your decision how you spend the grant.

What happens if I receive the grant and subsequently receive an offer from an internship that I would rather accept?

This program offers a rare opportunity to work on your startup outside the bounds of a typical academic semester and provides a substantive grant. We expect that all grant recipients understand and honor the commitment once the opportunity is offered and accepted.

I am a senior this year and will not be a UD student during the summer. Can I still apply for the grant?

Yes.

I am a graduate student and will not be a UD student during the summer. Can I still apply for the grant?

Yes.

Is the funding fully guaranteed?

No. Funding is dependent upon satisfactory progress, demonstrated learning and meeting expectations.

Disclaimers:

Horn Entrepreneurship maintains full discretion over the selection process and all funding and in-kind service associated with the Summer Founders program, including grant amounts, terms and conditions.

Summer Founders includes open session presentations and external review of business concepts. Participation is voluntary, and as such, participants are responsible for determining whether to disclose proprietary or sensitive information. The University of Delaware assumes no liability for accidental or voluntary disclosures of proprietary information or intellectual property
Ownership of IP

You own any intellectual property (i.e., patents, hardware, algorithms, copyrights) you bring to the Summer Founders program. IP developed through the process of Summer Founders, business model testing and customer development etc. is shared equally among the members of the team (unless the team agrees to an alternative sharing agreement prior to the collaborative development of the IP). If the team is working with University of Delaware owned IP (i.e., research being conducted by one of the team members or a UD patent), you MUST check with the University’s Technology Transfer Office to better understand licensing issues.

Concerns about idea sharing.

If you feel your idea may become real, you should discuss intellectual property rights with your team from the beginning. If you can’t come to agreement with the team, you will need to join another team, pick another project, or drop out of Summer Founders.

Non-disclosures.

Summer Founders is an open program. There are no non-disclosures among students, faculty, mentors, advisors or any assisting outside party. Please keep in mind that ideas are best viewed as liabilities, rather than assets, because there are significant costs associated with pursuing them (in terms of time & money). Also, initial ideas seldom prove successful; most companies succeed because the process of learning, discovery, and execution shapes an initial idea that is mostly wrong into something that people actually want to use. This process requires willingness to share your ideas openly with peers and others.