### What is the I-Corps@SFI Academy?

The I-Corps@SFI Academy is an SFI training initiative delivered virtually over a 6-8-week period[1] to train researchers, and non-academic Research Performing Organisation (RPO) staff members, in evidence-based entrepreneurship.

Under the I-Corps@SFI Academy:

- Researchers are *trained to apply* evidence-based entrepreneurship to discover impact opportunities for their research.
- Non-academic RPO staff are *trained to instruct* researchers in applying evidence-based entrepreneurship and to mentor them while they apply this technique.

The objectives of the I-Corps@SFI Academy initiative are:

- To train researchers in evidence-based entrepreneurship enabling them to explore impact opportunities for their research and prepare them to apply to the SFI/NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme, the SFI Future Innovator Prize and other innovation programmes.
- To establish and train a network of qualified instructors in Ireland to deliver mentorship and training in evidence-based entrepreneurship within RPOs.

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[1] Dependent on training streams run in cohort.

**Who can apply?**

Under Cohort 3, there is only one application stream (i.e. no Instructor-Trainee stream is being offered in Cohort 3):

- **Research Teams**
  Applications can be submitted by teams comprising two researchers (at independent investigator[2] or funded investigator, postgraduate or postdoctoral career stage), working on a technical innovation based on STEM research, with the ambition to translate their work for impact. Both researchers must be based at an eligible RPO. However, both researchers do not need to be based at the same RPO, nor do both researchers need to be at the same career stage. Both researchers must work on the same problem during training.

**Cohort size is limited to 20 research teams**. If a team is successful in its application but a cohort is filled, the team will be allocated to a subsequent cohort.

A limited number of *observers* may be permitted to attend a cohort. Attendance by observers is discretionary and intended to provide an opportunity to learn about the programme and promote applications to it at a later stage. Observers may only attend the research team training component of the programme.

**Who will provide the training and how will it be delivered?**

Training will be provided by a highly experienced instructor team from the [NSF I-Corps South Node](#) based at Georgia Tech. The instructor team will be led by Prof Keith McGreggor who is the Executive Director of the I-Corps South Node and Director of Georgia Tech's VentureLab.

Training will be cohort-based and will be delivered virtually to teams. NSF's I-Corps evidence-based entrepreneurship methodology will be used throughout. Training will involve virtual tutorials, opportunity discover activities with stakeholders/potential customers, team presentations and one-to-one mentoring (office hours). Teams will also be supported by members of the I-Corps@SFI Academy network of instructor trainees and mentors.

**Schedule and Duration**

Under Cohort 3, training will commence on **March 8th**. In terms of time commitment, research teams can expect to participate for ca. 28-hours. An overview of the training schedule is provided in Table 1 below. Office Hours are open time slots when teams have an opportunity to have one-to-one sessions with instructors/mentors.

Table 1. Indicative training schedule for Cohort 3 of the I-Corps@SFI Academy.

| Week | Research Teams (Hours) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 12 |
| 2 | 4 |
| 3 | Office Hours |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Office Hours |
| 6 | 8 |

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[2] Lead Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on a research grant.

**Application Submission**

To submit an application to Cohort 3, please click on the link below:

**Click here to apply**

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**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Research Teams - **13:00 (Dublin local time), March 2nd**

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Applications involve submission of team member details (name, host institution, email, career stage and details of award, incl. award ID, under which currently funded) and a description of the problem the team wishes to address. All applications under Cohort 3 must be approved by the host institution Technology Transfer Office.

Applications are submitted via an online form which may not be saved and returned to. It is therefore suggested that researchers submit this form with their TTO as each of the researchers and TTOs must complete a section.

**Key Dates**

| Webinar | February 18th |
| --- | --- |
| Application Deadline | See Above |
| Notifications | March 4th |
| Cohort 3 Commences | March 8th |

**Further Information**

For additional information, please see the I-Corps@SFI Academy webpage or contact i-corps@sfi.ie at Science Foundation Ireland.