

Global Incubator Programme Canada - AI

Innovate UK's Global Incubator Programme is an acceleration programme for innovative businesses to work with world-leading incubators abroad. We are currently accepting applications to take up to eight innovative companies, developing Artificial Intelligence, machine learning applications for improved healthcare decision making and diagnostics, as well as safer, more effective treatments, to join our programme with [MaRS Discovery District](#) in Toronto, Canada.

We welcome applications from innovative companies who are developing technology that enables or improves processes and productivity using AI-powered solutions in the fields of diagnostics, therapeutics, mental health, precision or regenerative medicine.

MaRS is the largest urban innovation hub in North America, supporting high-growth start-ups and scale-ups and has unique market knowledge of the health sector.

MaRS helps entrepreneurs build successful companies and navigate the complex regulatory path to market, while collaborating with key stakeholders including hospitals, governments, and corporations. In addition, MaRS convenes all members of the tech ecosystem to drive breakthrough discoveries, grow the economy, and make an impact by ensuring that innovative solutions are delivered to those that need them most.

WHY CANADA AND THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET?

Canada is ranked among the top five countries for commercial AI-focused ventures and has the most patents per million people among the G7 nations and China. Toronto's start-up ecosystem also hosts the largest concentration of AI-startups, with 273 firms, thanks to Canada's support of foreign-owned multinational corporations.

In 2017, Canada released a national AI strategy to attract and retain world-class AI researchers, foster a

collaborative AI ecosystem, advance national AI initiatives, and understand societal implications of AI. From this, \$93 million was invested in research institutions and AI talent, which has helped make Canada one of the world's leading players in the sector and has led to investments and job creation.

For nearly 20 years, MaRS has empowered innovation in the healthcare ecosystem by offering a range of services that help tech founders grow their companies and create meaningful innovation. MaRS works with 1,400 companies across Canada, turning breakthrough ideas into products and services with global impact. **In 2020 alone, MaRS supported ventures raised \$2.4 billion collectively, while generating \$1.5 billion in revenue.**

This initiative will be delivered virtually on a weekly basis from **May 2024 to October 2024**, with two visits to Toronto built into the programme.

We are committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of this programme.

KEY DATES:

Programme
briefing:
5 February
2024

Applications
close:
15 March
2024

Shortlist
interviews:
25-27 March
2024

Market visit - first
incubation week:
11-20 June
2024

Market visit -
second
incubation week:
October
2024

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **Advisory support:** Guidance from sector experts and experienced entrepreneurs in Canada.
- **AI consulting services:** Connect with freelance and staff subject matter experts for support with a pressing AI/ML challenge.
- **Connections to capital:** Introductions to VCs and corporates looking to invest in new ventures.
- **Connections to talent:** Support with finding and recruiting skilled workers from Canada and the world.
- **Data and insights:** Tailored market analysis of the latest industry trends and the insights needed to gain an edge.
- **Tools and services:** Webinars, information sessions, peer-to-peer guidance, and access to marketing and communication expertise.
- **Access and introductions:** Connections to North American-based customers and partners.
- **Professional network:** Participate in a vibrant community of AI entrepreneurs and industry professionals.
- **PR and creative services:** Access the MaRS PR Accelerator to help build your brand presence in North America.
- **Exploit the opportunity:** Each business is supported by an Innovate UK EDGE Innovation & Growth Specialist to maximise the potential of being part of the programme and beyond.

TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME, YOU MUST:

Be a UK based company

Be a business with fewer
than 500 employees

Have a focus on
AI

WHAT IS THE COST?

Innovate UK will fund and organise flights, accommodation, in-market travel, and any additional fees for successful applicants. Innovate UK will also pay for any reasonable adjustments throughout the initiative. Only one representative from each company will be funded. On acceptance to the initiative a commitment fee of £1000 will be obtained from each delegate, which will be refunded on completion of the full activities and agreed action plan. Non-completion after formal acceptance may result in forfeiting some or all the commitment fee.

HOW TO APPLY:

The Global Incubator Programme has a competitive application process where only the best applications will be successful following an evaluation process. Those shortlisted will be interviewed by a panel and finalists will undergo financial eligibility checks. All applications must be made online through the Innovate UK EDGE website and received no later than **09:00 on 15 March 2024**. A separate company pitch-deck should be attached to your application. To support potential applicants, a briefing will take place between **16:00 - 17:00 on 5 February 2024**.

Please note: Successful applicants will be expected to fully comply with any conditions of travel to Canada.

Innovate UK is committed to improving the diversity of who we support. As such we welcome applications from those under-represented in the Artificial Intelligence sectors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

To fill in the online application form, please visit the [Innovate UK EDGE website](https://www.innovateukedge.ukri.org).

For more information, assistance with your application or to discuss accessibility needs, please contact the global team at global1@innovateukedge.ukri.org.