A Culture of Innovation





At the University of Chicago, innovation is part of our DNA.

Our scholars enrich society with bold ideas and new approaches. Through our rigorous liberal arts education, students learn to challenge the status quo and forge their own paths, with a Core curriculum that emphasizes creative problem solving and values fresh perspectives. Innovation is part of our history, beginning with our founding in 1890 when we pioneered a new model of education that combined English-style liberal arts with German-style graduate research. And it's part of our future. Today we cultivate the next generation of entrepreneurs with programming, resources, and mentorship for students of all majors and class years.

Undergraduates can build on this academic foundation by taking courses like Building the New Venture at the top-ranked University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Scholars act on this entrepreneurial spirit throughout their pursuits, whether they found their own start-ups in campus challenges, advance a nascent industry through research at the Institute for Molecular Engineering, or push the boundaries of arts theory and practice at the interdisciplinary Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts.

CAMPUS RESOURCES SAMPLING

The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship

supports entrepreneurial learning and collaboration in workshops, hands-on learning opportunities, and incubator space for student start-ups.

UChicagoTech assesses the commercial potential of University of Chicago discoveries, facilitating seed funding and building collaborations between researchers and industry partners.



"The Washington Park Arts Incubator is a space for artists to work together, share ideas, and interact with our faculty, staff,

and students, creating opportunities for rich cultural development both on and off campus."

THEASTER GATES, director of the Arts and Public Life Initiative at UChicago, leads the Washington Park Arts Incubator, a mixed-use arts facility that is a nexus for cultural and community engagement.



'Entrepreneurship is about looking at a problem area, understanding the nuances, and actively seeking a variety of ways

to solve the problems. UChicago teaches that mindset very well: how to be critical, how to learn, and how to think."

JONATHAN ALLAN, AB'07, senior associate director of innovation programs at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship, develops entrepreneurial leaders who add value to the global economy.



"We treat undergraduates as our colleagues, along with our grad students, postdocs, and professional engineering staff.

Undergraduates work to discover dark matter and understand dark energy, as well as to design cutting-edge electronics. College students can be the ones to ask the most interesting questions in science."

HENRY FRISCH, Professor in Physics, is developing ultra-fast pico detectors, which could lead to more precise medical imaging technologies.

Entrepreneurial Careers

Regardless of major or professional interest, students cultivate entrepreneurial skills as they advance their careers. UChicago Career Advancement offers programming and a dedicated adviser for students interested in launching their own businesses and exploring innovative careers.











In the College New Venture Challenge,

student teams create business plans and compete for seed funding to develop their enterprises.

The Metcalf Internship

Program facilitates paid, substantive internships for students in Chicago and in more than 85 cities across the globe, including working at start-ups and innovative companies in a wide range of fields.

Career Treks take small groups of students to domestic and international companies, where they expand their professional networks and gain industry insight.

Inventive student

research—across our academic departments, on-campus medical center, 140+ on-campus research centers and institutes, and two national labspropels our understanding of the world

Community partnerships

through programs like the Urban Education Institute and the Urban Health Initiative take inventive. empirically tested approaches to solving long-term issues in our nation's cities

STUDENT START-UPS WITH SOCIETAL IMPACT



"College students relate to high school students in a miraculous way that goes beyond cultural or socioeconomic barriers, so they're ideal to pass that knowledge."

TED GONDER, AB'12, Cofounder of Moneythink

Gonder and a team of UChicago undergraduates founded Moneythink, a financial literacy mentoring organization that helps high school students learn the value of saving, budgeting, and the basics of credit and debt. In under three years, Moneythink has scaled to 17 urban campus communities nationwide, employing more than 300 undergraduate volunteers to mentor over 1,700 urban high school students. In 2012, Moneythink was a top-five finalist for the White House Campus Champions of Change Challenge.











































"The possibilities of creativity and entrepreneurship are endless. Go out there and create things that will push the world forward."

ALEX GOLOVIN, College Class of 2014, an Economics major, is the cofounder of HydraBand, a color-changing bracelet that will allow athletes to monitor their hydration level. This band will provide hydration measurements which will allow the user to take action against dehydration and hyper hydration.



"Entrepreneurship is not an industry. You can have an entrepreneurial career as a banker, a doctor, a lawyer, a consultant. We want to expose students to

entrepreneurial skills they can use in any field."

JERRY HUANG, MPP'96, program director of entrepreneurship at UChicago Career Advancement, helps students find the right opportunities to develop their skills and interest in entrepreneurship.