

# Researcher 2 Entrepreneur Grant Program

**R2E**

Turn breakthrough research into real-world impact

**The R2E Grant is a new MIT capstone-style program that gives PhDs and postdocs launchpad to turn their research into real-world ventures.**

# Why are we doing this?

- **Direct response to campus need from PhDs and postdocs**
- **Proven model: building on delta v accelerator success**



Participants Go On to Found Other Companies at a Prolific Rate:

**130 Additional Companies**

**\$2B Additional Funding**

# Why R2E?

- Receive intensive and customized **mentorship** not covered in your research training
- Develop your **entrepreneurial skill set**
- Broaden your **professional network**
- Learn from peers and build a **lasting community**
- Earn a little bit of **money** (more on this later)
- Make progress within a **safe environment**

# Program Outline

## Phase 1

## Customer Focus

# Program Outline

**Phase 1**

**Customer Focus**

**Phase 2**

**Path to Tech Validation Focus**

# Program Outline

**Phase 1**

**Customer Focus**

**Phase 2**

**Path to Tech Validation**

**Phase 3**

**Company Focus + Path to Impact**



# R2E Typical Programming Cadence

- + **Bi-weekly (twice a month):** Pod meetings & EIR coaching (~2 hrs)
- + **Monthly:** One structured program event (workshop or guest speaker)
- + **Every 2 months:** Social activity / community building
- + **Quarterly:** Board meeting with mentors & advisors



# Program Components

# Guest Speakers & Workshops

**Hear stories and learn skills from current founders and MIT alumni, plus additional 1:1 support via office hours.**

Example Workshops:

- PMR
- Fundraising
- Translating Research
- IP & Licensing
- Scientist to Founder
- Team Formation



# Mock Board Meetings

**Learn to communicate progress & milestones succinctly and effectively with experienced mentors**

- 7-10 curated experts from relevant startups, industry, and faculty
- 1x board meeting per phase focused on specific topic
- Evaluated based on phase rubric

**All three board meetings are mandatory: December 11th, February 26th April 23rd**

# Social & Cohort Building

**We invest in building the cohort by hosting social outings and events and we expect you to do the same throughout the year.**

Example Events:

- Boston Harbor Cruise
- Board Member get together
- Charles River Kayaking
- Cohort Dinners
- Mystery Nights
- And more...

# Trust Center Funding

# Program Funding

## Team

Each team is eligible to earn up to \$20,000 equity-free for their startup



***Don't apply for the money. Apply to get coaching and customized content!***

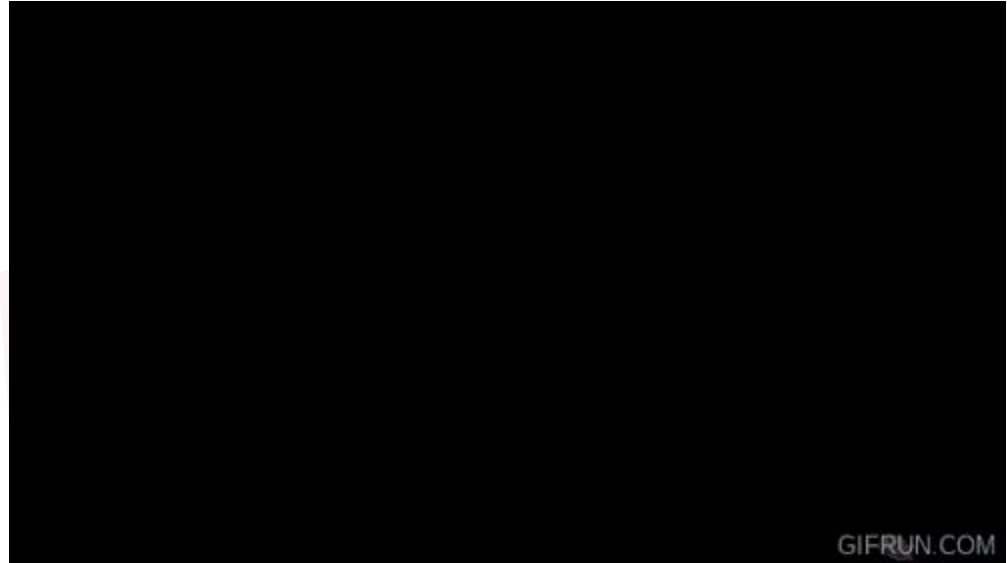
# Key Agreements

Participants are expected to dedicate ~10 hours per week to advancing their venture.

Fellows must attend a bi- weekly 2-hour evening cohort meeting which include the program sessions.

Participants must obtain sign-off from their PI/advisor to ensure alignment with lab responsibilities.

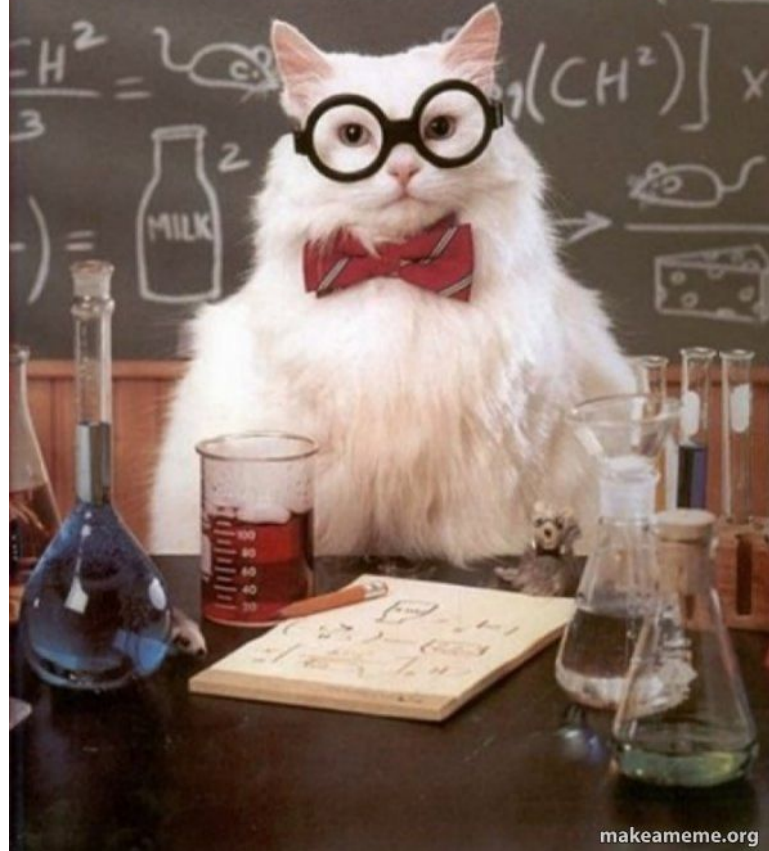
Other MIT programs and grants (Sandbox, Legatum, etc.) are accepted and encouraged!





# Expectations

**EXPERIMENT**



**COLLABORATION**

**FOR THE WIN**

# Who Should Apply

- Open to individuals or small teams (2–5 people) — no requirement to have co-founders
- Must include at least one MIT PhD student or postdoc
- Participant(s) must have started to develop technology and started exploring its potential commercial applications
- Clear interest in pursuing commercialization of the technology after R2E

# Selection Criteria

1. **Traction**
2. **Technology validation**
3. **Commitment beyond the program**
4. **Commitment to cohort**

# Application Process

**Applications  
Opened....  
August 10!!  
(5pm)**

# Application Process

## Applications Open August 10th

- 1 Minute Video
- Team Information
- Idea Overview

**Apply Online:**

**<https://orbit.mit.edu/applications/r2e25>**

# Application Process

## Applications are open!

- 1 Minute Video
- Team Information
- Idea Overview

## Applications Close September 8th

## Teams Notified by end of September

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# Key Dates

<b>August 10</b>	Applications Open
<b>September 8th</b>	Applications Close
<b>Mid -September</b>	Interviews
<b>Late September</b>	Application Decisions Sent
<b>October 14</b>	Program Starts
<b>December 11</b>	Board Meeting #1
<b>February 26</b>	Board Meeting #2
<b>April 23</b>	Board Meeting #3

# R2E Leads



Emily Mooney  
Co-Lead



Macauley Kenney  
Co-Lead



Christine Hsieh  
Lead Advisor

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**We can't wait to review your applications!**

**Questions? Email [r2e@mit.edu](mailto:r2e@mit.edu)**

# Pre-Program Bootcamp

Students who have not taken the bootcamp or 15.390 and accepted non-MIT participants take part in a **Disciplined Entrepreneurship bootcamp**.

Covers:

- Life of an Entrepreneur
- Disciplined Entrepreneurship
- PMR
- More as requested...

All are welcome for a refresher!

