

# POLSKY I-CORPS

Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the Polsky I-Corps program enables UChicago scientists, researchers, faculty, and students to test the commercial potential of their research and ideas.



## OVERVIEW:

The Innovation Corps program (I-Corps) is a national program supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). In 2014, the Polsky Center received a grant to run a local Polsky I-Corps program to prepare scientists and engineers to extend their focus beyond the university laboratory and accelerate the economic and societal benefits of NSF-funded, basic-research projects that are ready to move toward commercialization.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Polsky I-Corps program is open to UChicago faculty, researchers, students, staff, and alumni as well as participants from partner institutions and regional universities. Only individuals and teams working on projects in the science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) fields are eligible. A background in business or entrepreneurship is not required.

**Apply online:** [bit.ly/ICorps20-21App](https://bit.ly/ICorps20-21App)

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

- **Education:** Hands-on training and entrepreneurial education delivered by world-class faculty members from Chicago Booth and experienced Polsky Center staff.
- **Mentorship:** Individual sessions with coaches who are focused on making introductions, providing feedback, and supporting the project's customer discovery process.
- **Funding:** Micro-grant funding to advance early-stage projects.
- **Networking:** Opportunities to interact with faculty, Polsky staff, and other scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs.
- **Special Recognition:** Designation as an NSF-funded project, leading to further opportunities for training and funding through the national I-Corps program and SBIR/STTR programs.

## PROGRAM FORMAT:

The Polsky I-Corps program includes four educational sessions and outside field work, including 30 interviews with potential customers.

## FALL COHORT KEY DATES:

### Info Session

- **Tuesday, August 25**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
To receive link, register here:  
[bit.ly/ICorpsInfoFall20](https://bit.ly/ICorpsInfoFall20)

### Application Deadline

- **Friday, September 4**

### Virtual Sessions (1:30-4:30 p.m.)

- **Friday, October 9**
- **Friday, October 23**
- **Friday, November 6**
- **Friday, November 20**

## WINTER COHORT KEY DATES:

### Info Session

- **Tuesday, November 17**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
To receive link, register here:  
[bit.ly/ICorpsInfoWinter21](https://bit.ly/ICorpsInfoWinter21)

### Application Deadline

- **Friday, November 27**

### Sessions (1:30-4:30 p.m.)

- **Friday, January 29**
- **Friday, February 12**
- **Friday, February 26**
- **Friday, March 12**

## SPRING COHORT KEY DATES:

### Info Session

- **Tuesday, February 16**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Zoom  
To receive link, register here:  
[bit.ly/ICorpsInfoSpring21](https://bit.ly/ICorpsInfoSpring21)

### Application Deadline

- **Friday, February 26**

### Sessions (1:30-4:30 p.m.)

- **Friday, April 2**
- **Friday, April 16**
- **Friday, April 30**
- **Friday, May 14**

## QUESTIONS?

Visit [icorps.uchicago.edu](https://icorps.uchicago.edu) or contact Ellen Zatkowski, Senior Program Manager at [ezatkows@uchicago.edu](mailto:ezatkows@uchicago.edu)