Materialize FAQs

General

Why does Materialize exist?

The goal of Materialize is to move technologies from the academic lab towards start-up formation. With any deep tech innovation, there's a moment when things go from theoretical to practical. Materialize is a one-of-a-kind innovation accelerator built to make sure that moment becomes momentous.

What will I get out of Materialize?

Researchers bring curiosity and the start of something great. Through Materialize, participants will get a framework for successfully launching new technology ventures based on academic innovations and be connected to a network of mentors, thought leaders, and potential customers.

Following the completion of Materialize, a selected team will receive seed funding from Material Impact.

What makes Materialize different from other accelerators?

Materialize is a seven-month long program comprised of ten lectures, hands-on exercises, and interactive case studies. Participants will also receive direct mentorship from leading deep tech investors.

At the end of Materialize, one team will be selected to receive a seed investment of $750,000 from Material Impact.

Are there certain technology areas that are of interest to Material Impact and Materialize?

Yes. Materialize is focused on deep technology innovations geared towards addressing large enduring needs in the following areas:

- Biomanufacturing and Sustainable Products
- Sustainable Food and Water
- Data Storage and Security
- Robotics, AI, and Augmented Reality
- Transportation and Mobility
- Underrepresented Healthcare

Eligibility

Who is eligible to participate?

The proposed startup must have Columbia Intellectual Property. Applicants must have a team member with a full-time faculty appointment at Columbia, but teams should be led by entrepreneurially minded graduate students (PhD, MBA, MA), post-doctorate trainees, or undergraduate students with permission from the principal investigators (PIs).

Teams of two or more students/trainees are highly encouraged. Team leaders must have technical expertise regarding their technology.

What if I'm not affiliated with Columbia?

Sorry. At this point in time, Materialize is limited to the Columbia University entrepreneurial ecosystem.

What is the selection process?

Applications will be selected based on translational and commercialization potential as well as scientific and technical merit.

Cohort Details

What's the time commitment?

Materialize will follow a seminar instruction model. Over the course of seven months, participants will meet for ten 90-minute seminars culminating in a demo day.

In addition to these sessions, teams will be expected to engage in one-on-one instruction and mentorship meetings with the Material Impact team to further tailor the learning exercises based on the specific innovation.

What are the course learning objectives?

The course will be comprised of three modules covering everything needed to launch a startup and take material science innovation from fantasy to fact.

During the program, teams will learn how to:

- Assess the commercial value of technologies
- Clearly define your value proposition
- Develop an actionable and effective go-to-market strategy
- Conduct customer interviews to validate and test your assumptions
- Understand the roles and risks involved in getting your idea off the ground
- Create aa well-rounded pitch deck that sizzles as much as it sells
- Learn the tools and tactics required to target your customers and make a splash in the market

Who leads the training?

The Material Impact team will lead customized educational programming and mentorship sessions.

Funding

Will I get funding at the end of Materialize?

At the conclusion of Materialize, Material Impact will select one team to spin out and invest seed funding in the amount of $750,000. This team will continue to receive ongoing support, advice, and resources from the Material Impact team to help bring their startup to the next level.

Does Material Impact take equity or create a formal business partnership with participants?

Material Impact does not take equity in any of the participating teams/companies during the program. Material Impact will make an investment in one team at the conclusion of Materialize.

Application Details

When are applications due?

Pre-proposals are due on Wednesday, October 11th. They should be completed and submitted through this online form: https://materializeny.submittable.com/submit