

## Our Future. Reimagined.

# **UJTTO Incubation Programme 2025**

## UJTTO Incubation programme

The University of Johannesburg Technology Transfer Office (UJTTO) Incubation Programme is designed to foster entrepreneurial thinking and provide support to innovators and entrepreneurs within the university community. This Programme equips participants with essential skills, resources, and mentorship to transform their ideas into viable businesses and impactful solutions.

The programme aims to provide an inclusive environment where participants can develop and refine their business ideas while leveraging equipped facilities and services.

## Why Join the Incubation Programme?

- The 2025 UJTTO Incubation programme provides:
- Entrepreneurial Training and Workshops to develop innovative products and refine business models.
- Access to Prototyping Facilities, including 3D printers, laser cutters, electronic kits, Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) tools, jewellery tools, and textile machinery at Makerspace.
- Networking Sessions connecting participants with professionals on entrepreneurial topics such as Intellectual Property, commercialisation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

#### **Incubation Structure and Services**

Hotdesking & iLounge • Makerspace • Entrepreneurial Training • Venture Mentoring Services (VMS) • Networking Session • Funding

## Hotdesking & iLounge

The programme provides dedicated collaborative environments for business strategy sessions, networking, and brainstorming. The space includes:

- Hotdesking Shared workspaces for collaboration and independent work, allowing incubates to work in a dynamic, innovation-driven setting.
- iLounge A relaxed and engaging space designed to facilitate organic networking, informal discussions, and knowledge-sharing. The iLounge is equipped with comfortable seating and blank boards for brainstorming sessions.

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#### Makerspace

Participants will have access to specialised equipment, including:

- **3D Printers station:** Rapid prototyping for product development.
- Laser Cutter station: High precision cutting and engraving for design projects.
- **Electronics station:** Circuit design and access to Arduino kits.
- Jewellery-Making Station: Jewellery making tools.
- VR & AR station: Virtual prototyping and immersive testing experience.
- Sewing station: Equipment for fashion and accessories.

The Makerspace Innovation Challenges integrate hands-on technical development with problem-solving. Participants will take part in structured innovation competitions where they will conceptualize, prototype, and refine products. These challenges culminate in presentation and judging events where teams showcase their solutions to a panel of experts and potential investors, providing a practical testing ground for their entrepreneurial ideas.

#### **Entrepreneurship Training**

The 14-week informal training programme<sup>1</sup> encompasses interactive sessions, workshops, case studies, and hands-on business development exercises. These included problem identification and opportunity discovery, understanding the customer and market, creating a compelling value proposition, establishing a competitive advantage, business model development, building an MVP, financial feasibility, go-to-market strategy, managing growth and scaling, and funding strategies.

<sup>1</sup>This programme is informal and non-credit bearing. No certificates will be issued upon completion. While the content is sourced from the Wadhwani Foundation, the training is structured as a learning experience rather than an accredited course.

### Venture Mentoring Services (VMS)

Selected entrepreneurs will be allocated mentors to assist with providing industry insights and simultaneously, gaining a fresh perspective on current trends, technologies, and innovative approaches fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge.

## **Networking Sessions**

Sessions will be held on selected months over the incubation period whereby topics mostly on IP/Innovation management, customer discovery and commercialisation will be covered.

## Funding

At the end of the incubation period entrepreneurs will pitch for prize money that can be utilised for their ventures.

## **Application Process**

#### Eligibility

- Open to students and staff of the University of Johannesburg.
- Individuals or teams with innovative ideas, research-based products, or technology-driven solutions.

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