

FOUNDERS

At the University of Cambridge

2026
EDITION

WELCOME

The University of Cambridge has a long history of generating ideas that have transformed industries, advanced healthcare and shaped the modern world. Today, it continues to produce world-leading research and exceptional talent with the potential to create global impact.

The challenge is not a shortage of ideas. It is creating the conditions that enable those ideas to become successful ventures.

Founders at the University of Cambridge was established to strengthen that pathway. By bringing together entrepreneurial education, venture support, capital, expertise and community, we help founders accelerate between discovery and company creation. Our goal is to increase both the number and quality of ventures emerging from the University while contributing to the future strength of the UK's innovation economy.

Over the past three years, we have built a platform that supports founders at key stages of their journey and connects them with experienced entrepreneurs, investors and industry experts.

This community is central to our success. With the support of Cambridge Enterprise Ventures, AstraZeneca, HSBC Innovation Banking, KPMG and our wider network of partners, founders gain access to the expertise, connections and opportunities they need to grow. Thank you for making this possible.

We are now ready to build on this momentum. With more partners, more experts and more investors, we can support more founders and accelerate more ventures.

The future is being built here. We invite you to help shape what comes next.



CAROLINE HYDE

Head of Entrepreneurship and Ecosystems,
Cambridge Enterprise



I continue to be struck by the calibre and diversity of innovation emerging from Cambridge. The START 3.0 cohort demonstrates how world-leading research can be transformed into ventures with the potential to tackle global challenges and create lasting impact for people around the world.



JIM GLASHEEN

Chief Executive,
Cambridge Enterprise



The Founders programme enables entrepreneurs to build their network, find investment and develop the skills needed to build a globally leading company. We are proud to partner with Founders.



KATHRYN CHAPMAN

CEO,
Innovate Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE ECOSYSTEM

Cambridge is the most intensive science and technological cluster in the world.

There are more than 5,000 knowledge-intensive firms based in and around Cambridge, employing more than 72,500 people and generating £25 billion turnover. The University of Cambridge contributes over £29.8 billion to the UK economy annually, supporting around 86,000 jobs across the UK, including 52,000 in the East of England and contributes over £13 billion in gross value added.

“Cambridge brings academia, government, funders, entrepreneurs and corporates together to create an environment where innovation can thrive. For KPMG, being part of this community means supporting the exciting businesses of the future from the start of their growth journey.”



SALVATORE DI MAGGIO

Senior Business Development Manager,
KPMG

“Cambridge has such a wealth of incredible innovation coming out of the University – and it’s particularly rewarding to be able to build on that with the next generation of startups.”

JIM GLASHEEN

Chief Executive,
Cambridge Enterprise



“What I really like about the Founders at the University of Cambridge programme is that it brings together top quality innovative companies with others in the ecosystem including successful existing and former entrepreneurs, experienced investors and advisers and talented executives and mentors in a really supportive environment, providing tangible, practical advice to give the founders the best possible start.”



HAZEL MOORE

Chair,
First Capital

“Cambridge is home to some extraordinary founders who are focused on world-changing science and technology business. We are proud to support them as they turn inspired ideas into tangible innovation.”

JAMIE BIGNAL

Director Technology & Life Sciences,
HSBC Innovation Banking



“Cambridge is one of the most dense innovation ecosystems, with huge potential for continued growth. Founders at the University of Cambridge is a catalyst for early stage start-ups and a key part of the ecosystem.”



ANNALISA GIGANTE

Chair, Board Member & CEO

CAMBRIDGE IN NUMBERS

1st

in global rankings of no. of university alum founders who raised >£10M per inhabitant*

3rd

in global science cluster rankings*

>£3.3BN

investment in University of Cambridge companies**

* Dealroom, 2023

** Cambridge Enterprise, 2025

PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

Cambridge produces a remarkable concentration of research, expertise and entrepreneurial talent.

Yet the journey from promising idea to successful venture requires more than technical excellence. Founders must understand customers, build teams, test assumptions and develop the commercial capabilities needed to create sustainable businesses.

Founders at the University of Cambridge exists to support that transition. Through structured programmes, mentoring and peer learning, we help students, researchers, postdocs and alumni develop the skills, networks and confidence needed to transform academic insight into real-world impact.

Our support is delivered through two complementary programmes:

SYNC enables aspiring entrepreneurs to explore opportunities, connect with potential co-founders and begin building the relationships that underpin successful ventures.

START supports early-stage founding teams as they refine their proposition, validate market demand and prepare for growth, investment and commercialisation.

Together, these programmes help strengthen the pipeline of venture-ready founders emerging from Cambridge, increasing the likelihood that breakthrough ideas, technologies and research can become scalable companies capable of delivering economic and societal impact.



SARAH RANCHEV-HALE

Director of Entrepreneurship,
Cambridge Enterprise

FOUNDERS / SYNC

At the University of Cambridge

SYNC 3.0 is our co-founder matching accelerator, bringing together 30 University of Cambridge students, PhDs, academics and recent alumni to build new startups. Being in the SYNC cohort is the fastest way for them to test co-founding relationships and ideas while in Cambridge. After running two cohorts, we have partnered with more than 60 people, some of which joined with ideas, some with technologies and others with problems they want to explore. What they have in common is the mission of building something great and the aim to go full-time ASAP. Alongside the cohort experience, the programme offers access to mentors, investors, industry experts and founder-friendly funding.

FOUNDERS / START

At the University of Cambridge

START is our flagship pre-seed accelerator, backing the most ambitious AI and deeptech founders connected to the University of Cambridge. From lab-born spinouts to AI-first ventures, we support entrepreneurs whose technology has the potential to reshape industries and solve humanity's greatest challenges. Companies receive £30k from day one, free office space at ideaSpace West and 24 weeks of intensive mentorship and specialist business support – culminating in our US and London Investor Days where they pitch to 200+ leading investors. Now on our third cohort, we have accelerated 27 companies to date.



FOUNDERS / START 3.0

At the University of Cambridge



Cambridge has long been a cradle of world-changing science and technology. START 3.0 exists to make sure it doesn't stay in the lab. After 24 weeks of intensive preparation, these founders are now equipped with the networks, market clarity and capital connections they need to scale globally.



WINNY SANCHITA

Accelerator Manager,
Founders at the University of Cambridge

COHORT IN NUMBERS

£8m+

raised in **non-dilutive**
funding so far

75%

companies being built on
patented technologies

11

nationalities
represented

PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

200+

hours intensive one-on-one from
Operators-in-Residence (OiRs) and
Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EiRs)

100+

hours of founder
development



ADCOTX



AdcoTx is building the LGR5 antibody-drug conjugate designed to win colorectal cancer on therapeutic index, not exposure.

Colorectal cancer is the major solid tumour precision medicine forgot: around 95% of metastatic disease is microsatellite-stable, beyond immunotherapy's reach and still treated with chemotherapy. It is now the leading cause of cancer death in US men under 50.

Our published antibody targets LGR5, on over 95% of cancer cells in over 80% of tumours and near-absent from normal colon. It internalises fully within five minutes, enabling tumour-lethal delivery at low systemic exposure. We are advancing a biomarker-led path to first-in-human, with the long-term ambition of a precision-medicine backbone for colorectal cancer.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Dr Edward Cartwright
CEO

Second-time founder. PhD in cancer research from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology; J.P. Morgan Pharma M&A; over a decade advising pharma on strategy and commercialisation. Built and sold Cambridge Healthcare Research to GlobalData Plc.



Dr Marc de la Roche
CSO

Cambridge cancer biologist and co-ordinator of the LGR5 antibody, published in EMBO Molecular Medicine. Two decades in Wnt signalling, colorectal cancer biology and tumour organoids, from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology to his own lab.



Dr Maike de la Roche
Scientific Co-founder

Senior Group Leader and Assistant Director at the CRUK Cambridge Institute and co-ordinator of the LGR5 platform. Bringing the cancer immunology and preclinical expertise to take the LGR5 ADC to the clinic.

AILA BIOTECH



Aila Biotech is enabling the brain to produce therapeutic biologics directly at sites of disease.

Our CNS-targeted gene delivery platform enables the brain to produce therapeutic biologics directly at sites of neuroinflammation, overcoming the blood-brain barrier. Our lead programme targets progressive MS by restoring local immune balance and protecting neural tissue. Beyond MS, the platform could enable locally produced biologics across a range of neurological diseases.

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Dr Katy Palios
Programme Manager

Dr Katy Palios is Programme Manager at Aila Biotech and a neuroscientist specialising in neuroimmunology, gene delivery and translational research, leading preclinical programmes from strategy through execution.



Dr Ankita Singhal
CMC Lead

Dr Ankita Singhal is CMC Lead at Aila Biotech, a PRINCE2-certified project leader and PhD structural biologist with extensive experience in biomanufacturing, process development and CRO/CDMO management.

CO-FOUNDERS



Professor James Dooley
CEO

Prof James Dooley is CEO and co-founder of Aila Biotech, a Cambridge Research Professor and immunologist with 25+ years' experience in Treg biology, translational immunology and CNS-targeted gene therapy.



Professor Adrian Liston
CSO

Prof Adrian Liston is CSO and co-founder of Aila Biotech, a Cambridge Professor and internationally recognised immunologist with 300+ publications spanning Treg biology, neuroimmunology and translational medicine.



Dr Matthew Holt
Scientific Advisory Board Chair

Prof Matthew Holt is co-founder and Scientific Advisory Board Chair of Aila Biotech and an internationally recognised neurobiologist specialising in astrocyte biology, CNS gene delivery and blood-brain barrier-crossing technologies.

AURALYTICA



Auralytica turns the invisible chemistry of spoilage into data supply chains can act on.

We've built an in-pack material that converts the chemical signals released as food spoils into an infrared wavelength, readable at any point in the supply chain without opening the pack. This gives packers, distributors and retailers continuous, objective quality data as product moves through the cold chain - replacing guesswork with a real signal of condition.

Emerging from materials and chemistry research at both Cambridge and Imperial, the technology plugs into existing supply-chain infrastructure at low cost, unlocking smarter decisions on routing, pricing and shelf life.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Anna Winter
CEO

Anna spent her early career as a process engineer at Johnson Matthey, scaling sustainable technologies from lab to production floor. She completed an MBA at Cambridge to pair that technical grounding with commercial strategy and now focuses on making chemical sensing genuinely accessible - turning lab-scale science into products that work in the real world.



Dr Sam Davies
CTO

Sam holds a PhD in holographic hydrogels from Imperial College London and previously worked as lead scientist at several London deep-tech startups. He developed Auralytica's core technology, driven by a simple frustration, arguments in the kitchen about whether food was still safe to eat past the use by date.

CAMBRIDGE CYROGENICS



Cambridge Cryogenics builds ultra-low-temperature refrigerators that sit at the heart of quantum computing, quantum communication and AI datacentres.

Many quantum technologies rely on helium-3. Supplies on earth are so limited that even a modest scale-up of the industry is infeasible. AI datacentres are suffering major electricity-supply constraints hampering further growth due to the extreme demands of graphical processing units.

Cambridge Cryogenics' solid-state magnetic refrigeration platforms cool quantum hardware to the low milli-Kelvin range without rare and expensive liquid-helium. Our compact refrigeration systems for AI-dataracks support orders-of-magnitude increases in computational speed and better power delivery, resulting in huge energy savings. Cambridge Cryogenics is defining the common cryogenic architecture to run the integrated classical and quantum computing systems of the future.

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FOUNDER



Dr Stephen Rowley
CEO

Dr Stephen E. Rowley is a deep-tech entrepreneur creating exciting innovations in the cryogenics and quantum technology industries. He leads the Integrated Quantum Materials group at the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge as a Royal Society University Research Fellow seeking to discover and understand novel quantum materials and devices.

COSYSENSE



Do you recall a room too hot or cold from the air conditioning? You complained. Nothing changed.

Buildings run on rules set long ago for an average person who does not exist. Buildings exist for people, but have never met one. This wastes over thirty billion pounds and 8 million tons of CO2 yearly.

Cosysense gives buildings memory to remember, intelligence to decide and control to act. Clients see live data, while buildings adapt settings by themselves under human oversight. Combining machine learning with digital twins, we have shown 27-38% air conditioning savings across tier-1 restaurants, offices and hotels. We only charge a fraction of realised savings.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Dr Matias Acosta
CEO

Dr Matias Acosta is Cosysense's CEO. He led 100+ people teams, managed \$5M+ and published 50+ academic/UN articles. He was the founder of a social-enterprise edtech, the Head of Exploration at UNDP's Accelerator Lab, an academic at the University of Cambridge and the Technical University of Darmstadt and a consultant on materials and energy.



Dr Sebastian Horstmann
CTO

Dr Sebastian Horstmann is Cosysense's CTO. He led the machine learning development in a UK series A proptech and holds a PhD in sensing, which he transferred to industry. Additionally, he cofounded an air quality sensor social enterprise that he expanded to 10+ countries.

NEELA BIOTECH



Neela Biotech is redefining how the world produces fuels and chemicals.

Using our proprietary Controlled Microbial Upcycling process that leverages advances in AI-driven synthetic biology, we convert diverse waste streams into sustainable fuels and chemicals at cost parity with fossil-derived alternatives. Our technology can be deployed today in existing biogas plants unlocking 5x higher revenues.

Our initial focus is Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), where our platform chemicals can replace scarce waste oils used in existing HEFA refineries. Neela is part of the IAG (British Airways) innovation program and has secured grant funding from Innovate UK and Henry Royce Institute.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Dr Deepanshu Singh
CEO

Deepanshu has over 10 years of experience in the aviation sector, working with airlines, policymakers and OEMs including Rolls-Royce. He holds a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Oxford. Deepanshu has secured strategic partners like Emirates & Boeing, published for the World Economic Forum and raised multi-million-dollar funding for deep-tech ventures.



Friederike Nintzel
CTO

Friederike builds AI-driven biomanufacturing solutions for climate impact. With a decade of experience in synthetic biology, she studied at TU Delft, ETH Zurich and completed her PhD at Cambridge. She has worked on SAFs with SkyNRG and industrial chemicals with Merck Group and climate venture capital with Green River.

SATORUS GROUP



Satorus Group is an intelligence company built on a simple principle: no serious decision should be made in the dark.

Decision-makers need clarity, speed and precision. Yet critical intelligence remains buried across fragmented sources, from the surface web to the dark web.

Our platform, Sidney, is an agentic AI system that runs entire investigations: planning the approach, researching across open and deep sources, verifying and grading every finding and synthesising decision-ready intelligence reports in a customer's house style. Every claim is tied to a source. Sidney investigates. You read the finding.

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Elsa Hu
CTO

Elsa leads Satorus' technical vision and is the lead architect of Sidney's intelligence engine. As a VP at BlackRock, she engineered algorithmic trade-execution systems for the Fixed Income LDI desk and built the firm's first AI-driven private market data extraction platform. Elsa holds an MSc in Software Engineering from Oxford.

CO-FOUNDERS



Jack Alderman
CEO

Jack leads strategy, investor relations and team building and co-designed Sidney's foundational architecture. He advised a former Secretary of State on foreign policy and national security and co-managed a general election campaign.



Beth Martin-Board
COO

Beth leads operations, platform domain alignment and client relationship building. She architected Sidney's core intelligence workflows. She previously ran her own intelligence firm and has led on-the-ground intelligence operations in Iraq.



Harry Alderman
CCO

Harry leads commercial strategy and product refinement. The fastest-promoted salesperson at a billion-dollar company, he closed one of its largest-ever enterprise deals and has led AI agent deployments for major corporate clients.

SENESYS.BIO



Senesys.Bio

Senesys.Bio is a senescence-targeting biotech tackling serious age-related diseases, beginning with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

As we age, damaged cells stop dividing but refuse to die, accumulating in tissue and driving chronic disease. Clearing them can restore healthy function, but existing drugs cannot tell aged cells from healthy ones.

Our NanoJAGGs™ platform finds aged cells by their biology rather than biomarkers, delivering senolytic therapy with intrinsic precision. Built on an FDA-approved compound with decades of safety, it shows 17.5× less off-target toxicity to healthy cells. Born in Cambridge, we are advancing our lead therapy towards a first clinical trial in IPF.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Dr Ioannis Prattis
CEO

Ioannis is CEO of Senesys.Bio, developing senolytic therapies for age-related diseases. He holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Cambridge and an MSc in Human Molecular Genetics from Imperial. He has extensive experience commercialising research and in early-stage investment. He previously led Global Biotech Revolution, a non-profit developing biotech leaders.



Professor Ljiljana Fruk
CSO

Ljiljana is Professor of BioNano Engineering at Cambridge and inventor of the NanoJAGGs platform. Her group designs biomaterials and drug nanocarriers targeting senescent cells and hard-to-treat cancers, plus biosensors for cancer detection. She co-authored the first bionanotechnology textbook (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and is a Royal Society of Chemistry Fellow.

START HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, Founders at the University of Cambridge launched its inaugural pre-seed accelerator programme, START.

Across our first two cohorts, nineteen startups came together to tackle global challenges, each with a unique vision and breakthrough technology. Designed to smooth the path to success, the programme provided teams with intensive mentorship, specialist business support and £40k in pre-seed funding. Over 14 weeks, the cohort refined their strategies, validated their markets and perfected their pitches, culminating in Investor Day where they presented to over 200 leading angels, VCs and corporate investors.

Accelerated by START, these companies have progressed rapidly, achieving significant milestones within six months, such as securing over £24M in follow-on funding, winning awards and forming key partnerships. Their innovations range from lithium-ion battery technology and quantum communications systems to wildfire risk prediction, novel drug delivery systems and next-generation therapeutics.



SQWISH LABS

Intelligence that learns from what matters.

Founded by Ushnish Sengupta and Federica Freddi, Sqwish Labs is a Cambridge company building AI systems that improve after shipping. OpenAI and Anthropic improve their models, but they cannot see whether an agent helped its user or delivered the needed result. Sqwish connects outcomes to decisions inside the agent, then learns which combination of model, prompt, context, tools and workflow should handle each request.

Our early customers include large companies and AI-native startups building products for consumer entertainment, financial risk, real estate, customer support and sales. After raising £1.3 million in August 2026 and winning a £500,000 Innovate UK grant, we are now growing our team of engineers, researchers and builders.

\$3M
Total funding

\$1T
Market size



Founders at the University of Cambridge gave us the same superpower Sqwish Labs gives AI agents: the ability to learn quickly from what actually happens and make a better decision next time. With the right mentors, honest feedback and good people around us, we turned a research idea into a growing company.



DR USHNISH SENGUPTA

Co-founder and CEO, Sqwish Labs



XEN QUANTUM

Xen Quantum builds chip-based quantum cryptography hardware that makes unbreakable communication security practical at scale.

Today's encryption rests on mathematical assumptions that quantum computers and AI-assisted cryptanalysis are on course to break. Quantum Key Distribution is the only technology whose security is guaranteed by physics rather than assumption, but existing systems are bespoke, costly appliances that cannot be manufactured or deployed at network scale.

Our patented fully passive architecture removes the modulators and high-speed electronics driving that complexity and cost, making QKD manufacturable on the same silicon photonics processes the semiconductor industry already runs and embeddable directly into standard telecom equipment.

Since incorporating in January 2025, Xen Quantum has closed its pre-seed round, won €1.6M of development projects, secured a US patent on its core architecture and booked its first revenue for system delivery.

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CO-FOUNDERS



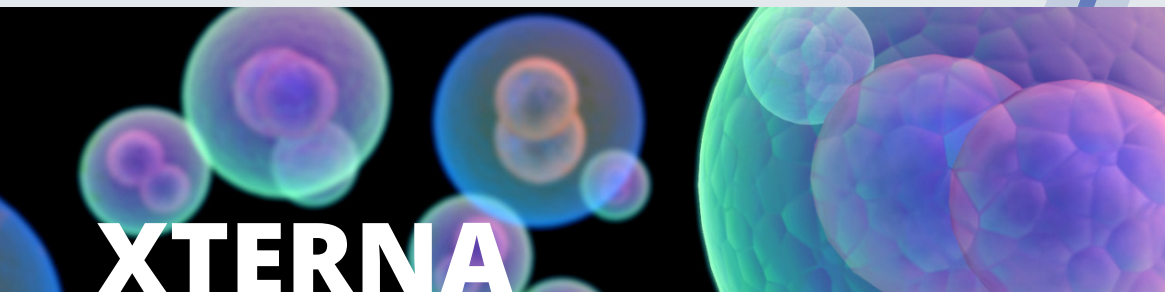
Dr Mirko Pittaluga
CEO

Mirko has spent a decade taking quantum cryptography from the lab to deployment on live telecom networks, leading teams to multiple world records. He is first author of three Nature and Nature Photonics papers, and his work has been covered by the Financial Times and Wall Street Journal. PhD in Quantum Communications.



Dr Davide Scalcon
CTO

Davide is one of very few engineers worldwide to have built QKD systems end to end - optical, electronic and software - at two leading manufacturers. Over seven years he has covered every layer and now leads Xen Quantum's technology development from chip design to control stack. PhD in Information Engineering.



Xterna's mission is to expand the addressable map of the human body for therapeutic delivery.

For most areas of the body, there is no map or postcode, meaning drugs get lost. Xterna leverages a new class of biological postcode, developing first-in-class drug-linked navigators, XENAs™, to reach previously hard-to-treat tissues.

Xterna combines expertise in nucleic acids and platform drug-screening technologies allowing therapeutic candidates to be investigated in a closer-to-human setting from day one. Backed by global life science investors, scientific experts, exited founders and commercial advisors, Xterna was Daiichi Sankyo's 2025 Golden Ticket Winner, pioneering a new realm for therapeutic delivery.

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CO-FOUNDERS



Jessica Corry, PhD
CEO

Jess is a cancer biologist, receiving her PhD at the University of Cambridge alongside AstraZeneca, where she witnessed the pains of drug development first-hand. Jess was named Cancer Research Horizons Early Career Entrepreneur of the year in 2025 and has spearheaded Xterna's technical founding and commercial strategy from the outset.



Christopher Wan, PhD
CSO

Chris is a synthetic biologist, having completed undergraduate and postgraduate training at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge. An expert in synthetic nucleic acids with high impact publications in Science and PNAS, Chris leads Xterna's technical mission to use nucleic acids to deliver therapeutics to uncharted areas of the body.

FOUNDERS / SYNC

At the University of Cambridge



Cambridge is home to talented people who could be co-founding together. Through SYNC, we partner with 30 students, researchers and alumni from across colleges and disciplines, helping them meet, bond over real work and build within a culture that values courage: to explore, give honest feedback and tackle important problems. From ideation and customer discovery to fundraising, SYNC is about backing smart people to learn by doing. To help them move faster, we provide frameworks, frequent feedback and access to mentors, industry leaders and investors.



CONNOR FARRELL

Early Talent Manager,
Founders at the University of Cambridge

PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

3

weeks matching and
ideation sprints

5

weeks of intensive
trial work sprints

5+

events to bring new
people into the cohort

COHORT IN NUMBERS

30+

future founders from
across sectors

112hrs

in ideation, discovery
and build sprints

<6

months from trial work sprint
to full time co-founding

"SYNC gave me the space, community and expertise I needed to turn my research into a company."



EMILE FERREIRA

Co-founder and CTO, Verascient



"A programme that supports you not just for an evening or a weekend, but over several months, helping you navigate the countless small questions that arise along the way."



FRIEDERIKE NINTZEL

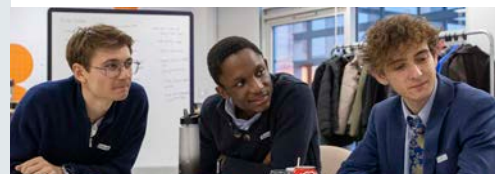
Co-founder & CTO, Neela Biotech

"The resources and community SYNC offered were paramount for our growth. Everyone within the cohort genuinely wants to see each other succeed."



MIHAI MESTERU

Co-founder & CEO, siliXon



"SYNC gave me the structure and freedom to explore the impact I want to have on the world."



DEEPANSHU KUSH

Co-founder & CTO, Loom Light



ANITA VERÓ

Co-founder and CEO, Latom

COMMUNITY

The Founders at the University Community is a world class global network driven to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurial talent.

The Community has grown to over 320 experts (70% of which are Cambridge University alumni) and spans 19 countries, bringing a diverse mix of experience from current founders, exited founders, investors and industry executives. From a sector perspective the community is a wealth of deep tech, life sciences, biotech, healthtech, sustainability and physical sciences expertise.

Through this community we ensure the founders on our programmes get to learn from those that have walked the path before them through mentoring and Founder Stories, have doors opened to potential customers and are supported in fundraising through early Investor Mentoring. Community experts gain opportunities to be the first to see the cutting edge technology coming out of Cambridge, get early access to new pre-seed investment opportunities and meet one another for lively discussion and debate at curated dinners and events.

Should you be a University of Cambridge Alumn who would love to be part of this, feel free to get in touch through our website.

COMMUNITY IN NUMBERS

Global reach
across
19
countries

320+
Community experts

70%
University of Cambridge
alumni

Over
80
funds represented
and growing

Almost
100
companies founded

"An energised and engaged group of entrepreneurs and investors, thoughtful discussion and some excellent pitches – it was a genuinely enjoyable evening to be part of."



SUSAN HILL
Co-founder & CEO, Mestag Therapeutics



"Community events bring people together to share problems and possibly find solutions that they weren't looking for."



DANIEL MAHONY
Senior Partner,
Novo Holdings

"I think the founder journey can feel very isolating and being able to find a community with which you can share ambition just makes you feel you're part of a journey all together."



FEDERICA FREDDI
Co-founder & CTO, Sqwish



WORDS FROM OUR EXPERTS

"START bridges Cambridge's most defensible deep tech and global capital, turning breakthrough research into venture-ready outcomes."



RYAN TAYLOR
Principal, Fusion Fund

"I have been impressed by the quality of the startups and the thoughtful, structured support of the Founders programme as well as the openness and breadth of the community and network. As an EiR, it is so rewarding to see the teams grow and apply the same rigour in the commercialisation of their technologies as in their development and bring game-changing solutions to life."



CHRISTINA NESHEVA
Founder & CEO, Ideas Curated

"As a serial entrepreneur, I joined START 3.0 to help Cambridge startups aim higher and drive bigger impact. Serving as an EiR has been immensely rewarding. Seeing the founders' intense focus paired with the programme's strong support has been inspiring! I can't wait to watch them thrive in the wild!"



KRISTIAN SEGERSTRÅLE
Serial Entrepreneur

"START 3.0 is an exceptional programme, bringing together high-calibre teams with a thoughtfully structured programme and an impressive community of EiRs and OiRs. The combination of UK and US perspectives, expertise and networks gives founders an incredibly valuable platform to build from."



VIVIAN CHAN
Board Advisor & NED

"What stood out was the willingness to be challenged. In a single session, multiple CEOs put their hardest unresolved questions on the table rather than just pitching to me. That takes confidence and it's rarer than it should be."

STAN BOLAND
Investor & Business Advisor



"As a Cambridge alum, I always enjoy the opportunity to meet and support the next generation of entrepreneurs coming out of Cambridge. It was brilliant to join START 3.0 for a Founders Story session and hear the cohort's thoughtful questions, particularly around fundraising in the US."

TUGCE BULUT
Co-founder, Eloquent AI



"Being a founder can be a lonely journey of many 'firsts'. When I started out, I was lucky to have mentors around me as sounding boards. Thus, when asked to be an EiR on the Founders START 3.0 programme at Cambridge it was a no-brainer for me. It allowed me to pay it forward and work with some really innovative and passionate entrepreneurs. What I enjoyed most was helping to bring a customer and product focus into the thinking from day one, which is something biotech founders often neglect during the R&D-heavy early stages."

DR. JANA VOIGT
Biotech Executive & Company Builder



"I got involved in START 3.0 after hearing previous EiRs and OiRs speak very highly about the quality of the programme and the founders coming through, it was a no brainer to jump in alongside them. What I have enjoyed most is the challenge of working alongside the founders to make their deeply technical and scientific breakthroughs legible to customers and capital markets. What has been stand out is the ambition of the founders and the potential impact of the technologies they are developing to transform industries, lives and markets."

GABBI CAHANE
Partner, Stride.vc



THANK YOU

to our expert community of over 320 people, in 19 countries, who collectively have founded more than 100 companies and backed hundreds of ventures worth over £15bn so far. Their experience is invaluable.

To our Entrepreneurs-in-Residence

Chris Kaster Founder & General Partner, Cadence MedTech Ventures
Christina Nesheva CEO, Ideas Curated LTD
Jana Voigt Biotech Executive: Company Builder & Strategic Alliances/Business Development Leader

To our Operators-in-Residence

Gabbi Cahane Partner, Stride VC
Katy Turner Founder, Turns Out
Ryan Taylor Principal, Fusion Fund

To our Sponsors

Glen Waters Head of Banking, Tech & Life Sciences MD, HSBC Innovation Banking
Jamie Bignal Director, HSBC Innovation Banking
Matt Burney Director, Business Development, AstraZeneca

To our mentors

Amelia Armour Early Stage Fund Partner, Amadeus Capital Partners
Amy Weatherup i-Teams Programme Director, University of Cambridge
Andy Philipps Serial Founder, Business Angel & Venture Partner, Booking.com
Annalisa Gigante Chair, Henry Royce Institute
Anne Dobree Investor Director, Parkwalk Advisors
Anthony Finbow Serial CEO, Solv Ltd
Barbara Domayne-Hayman Entrepreneur, Angel investor, Non-Executive Director
Beverley Carr CBO, CHARM Therapeutics
Camilla Dolan General Partner, Eka Ventures
Carlos Fernandes Advisory Board Member, ACM
Chandar Lal Partner, Mosaic Ventures
Dapo Tomori Venture Advisor, Iaso Ventures
David Brooks Director, PartitionBio
Hannah Sore Co-founder & CEO, PharmEnable
Hassan Mahmudul VC Investor, Future Planet Capital
Jason Pinto Co-founder, Pace Revenue
Jim Howard Board Chair, Marketron
Jolyon Martin Director BD & Strategy, Valink Therapeutics
Jon Bradford Managing Partner, Dynamo Ventures

Kristian Segerstråle Serial Entrepreneur
Lyndon Lien Founder & CEO, Balance Therapeutics
Mandeep Singh Angel Investor & Business Advisor
Pete Hutton Chairman, Agile Analog, Cambridge GAN Devices and Xampla
Richard Green Angel Investor, Vice Chairman, Nyobolt
Vivian Chan Founder, Capital Catalyst

Michale Bouskila-Chubb Senior Director, AstraZeneca
Salvatore Di Maggio Senior Business Development Manager, KPMG
Shaun Grady UK Chair, AstraZeneca

Julia Hawkins General Partner, LocalGlobe & Latitude
Leonard Picardo Startup Advisor & Investor, Independent
Lisa Barclay Venture Partner, Love Ventures
Marco Travaglio Consultant, IQVIA
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* We try our best to keep names and roles as up to date as possible.

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