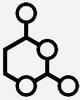




Start Codon:

The Life Sciences Accelerator

startcodon 

## Start Codon: The Life Sciences Accelerator

### Introduction

Start Codon, located in the heart of Cambridge, UK, aims to provide a much-needed world-class life science accelerator that offers significant funding and support to rapidly translate the most disruptive and innovative research into successful start-up companies.

Our founding partners include [Cambridge Innovation Capital](#), [Babraham Research Campus](#) through Babraham Bioscience Technologies, [Genentech](#), a member of the Roche Group, [Dr Jonathan Milner](#) and [Dr Ian Tomlinson](#).

We are now accepting applications from across the UK and beyond. Early stage start-up companies in the life sciences and healthcare space are invited to apply via [startcodon.co](http://startcodon.co).

### Why Start Codon?

Each of our cohort companies receives £250k seed funding to enable essential proof-of-concept experiments to be performed and to equip their teams with the skills and resources they need to succeed and secure series A financing. Our dedicated and experienced management team works hand-in-hand with founders and we run a comprehensive, 6-month programme that is tailored to the individual needs of each company. Our programme includes access to state-of-the-art office and lab facilities via our headquarters in the [Milner Therapeutics Institute \(MTI\)](#), mentorship from leading industry experts and serially successful entrepreneurs, and introductions to our network of venture capital strategic investors.

### How does it work?

- We aim to enroll between 8 - 12 portfolio companies per year, divided into two 6-month cohorts.
- Start Codon's fund will receive 8% equity via a share subscription agreement and will invest £250k cash via a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE) that converts at £2m valuation cap.

## What do I need to know about the programme?

### The bootcamp

- Our programme will kick off with a 1-week intensive induction intended to upskill the founding team, introduce the extensive resources available to our portfolio companies and produce a gap analysis that allows us to develop an individually tailored experience for our companies.
- Key focus areas include team building, intellectual property, go-to-market strategy, experimental design, marketing, fundraising, accountancy, key legal issues, general operations and contract negotiation.

### Bespoke programme

Portfolio Companies will receive:

- 6 months of training and close support.
- Regular meetings with our experienced management team, mentors, and VCs to develop a robust business plan, polish their pitch and prime for a series A fundraise.
- Potential to receive favorable rates and/or pro bono support from a broad range of commercial service providers including CROs, legal and accountancy firms, insurance brokers and banks.
- Access to office and lab space in a collaborative co-working environment that includes start-ups and life science researchers from both academia and industry.

### Demo day

- At the end of the programme, portfolio companies will pitch to potential investors and partners, including business angels, VCs, biotech and pharma.
- We aim to run demo days twice per year, in partnership with established conferences, to help ensure that they are well attended by senior executives.

### Alumni network

- Monthly catch-ups with the management team and continued participation in our networking events helps to ensure that alumni companies remain on track for their series A and continue to thrive.
- Alumni also 'pay it forward' by serving as mentors to subsequent companies.



## What is your eligibility and selection criteria?

- A committed management team with a minimum of 2 members, including a strong scientific founder or advisor.
- Private company with a share capital incorporated in England and Wales.
- Robust proof-of-concept and ownership of, or an exclusive license to, all relevant and material intellectual property.

## FAQs

### What's the application deadline?

There is no formal application process. We search for the best companies world-wide, 24/7, 365 days a year. If you have an innovative technology and a great team, please do apply to join through the “[contact us](#)” section of our website.

### We've already been working on our start-up for a while. Is Start Codon right for us?

Yes, we're always on the lookout for early stage companies that we can help secure series A funds or secure non-dilutive funding from a strategic partner.

### We don't have a PhD scientist on our team, can we still apply?

All entrepreneurs are welcome.

### Do we have to be UK citizens?

No, but you will need to have independently obtained, and be able to demonstrate your right to work in, the UK.

### We're developing a product solution that will require significantly more investment for commercialisation. Does it still make sense to apply?

Definitely. Our programme is intended to help portfolio companies to design and complete the key proof of concept experiments needed to secure series A funding. We are also open to syndication in select cases and encourage all portfolio companies to pursue grants, paid partnerships and other sources of non-dilutive funding.

## Do you only fund life sciences start-ups?

Our fund only invests in companies that have a healthcare and/or life sciences nature. We're broadly focused on disruptive platform technologies with therapeutics, diagnostics, med-tech and/or digital health applications. We also highly encourage entrepreneurs with innovative healthcare solutions developed outside of the traditional life sciences arena to apply.

### Can a single person apply for funding?

Sorry, we require a 2-person team. However, if you're solo do still get in touch and we can try to help with building your team.

### I have a great idea for a start-up, but I'm not technical. If I apply will you still fund me?

We'll consider the best ideas, regardless of where they come from, but you will need a technical co-founder.

### Why did you choose the name Start Codon?

The 'start codon' is a sequence of three letters in the genetic code that initiates the translation of messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) into proteins that regulate cell identity and function. Similarly, we aim to help founders translate more innovations into commercial and clinical successes that revolutionise the healthcare industry.

## Contact us

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<https://startcodon.co/>

## Apply to join

If you want to join us and start something amazing, please complete the application form found here:

<https://startcodon.co/contact>

## Our partners

