



Top 30 London start-up incubators and accelerators

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Introduction

Do you know there are over 100 incubators and accelerators¹ in London to help and support entrepreneurs like you? We curated the top 30 resources that can help you take your start-up from idea to launch and beyond. As a simplified guide, we divided the entrepreneurial journey into three generic stages – starting up, building and scaling your enterprise. We then hand-picked 10 resources for each stage to provide an overview of what support, help and funding you may get. We hope you will find this resource pack useful, whether you are just embarking on this journey or have already been operating for a while and looking for opportunities to scale up.

Stage 1 – Starting up your enterprise

For whom: Do you want to start your entrepreneur journey but don't have an idea yet? Do you have an idea in the back of your mind, but don't know how to build it into a real business? Then these are the resources for you.

*A1) **Mayor's Entrepreneurship competition** - <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/mayors-entrepreneur-competition/mayors-entrepreneur#acc-i-59542>

MAYOR OF LONDON

LONDONASSEMBLY

Incubator type - Accelerator

Sectors - Creative Industries and Design, Health and Wellbeing, Smart cities, Energy and the Environment

- Must fulfil the social goals the Mayor has set
- Must be based and impacting London

Description – One of the largest accelerators run in London, this program has been responsible for many successful London Entrepreneurs such as TooGoodTooGo. A competition styled accelerator paired with lots of mentoring, this competition is a good kickstart to many people's ideas. Networking connections and useful workshops mean that lots of start-ups come out of this accelerator ready to grow, even if they don't win the £20,000 grant.

Support offered - Seminars / Workshops, Direct Funding, Networking connections, Mentoring

Cost for participation - None

Duration - ~3 months, Applications in Jan, Program May – Sept

¹ See NESTA report "Business incubators and accelerators: a national picture." By J. Bone, O. Allen & C. Haley. April 2017.

*A2.) **Hult Prize** - <http://www.hultprize.org/about/>



Incubation type – Accelerator

Sectors – Any

- Must fit Hult Yearly Theme

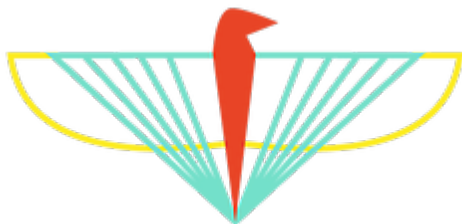
Description – This globally held competition is a massive entrepreneur hotbed, funded by the Clinton Foundation and endorsed by big names such as the UN. With an unconditional \$1,000,000 million cash grant as the winning prize, the 1st stage is held among QM students, where experienced mentors teach useful skills and lessons for starting a business. Find the right team among QM students, collaborate to create a start-up idea that fits their criteria, build your business to compete against a large global cohort of talented people. Regional stages and beyond can even see you get funded travel to places such as Japan, Santo Domingo and many other locations around the world.

Support offered - Mentoring, Training, Access to investors, Networking connections, Direct funding

Cost for participation – None (though some of the travel expenses may require some self-funding)

Duration - ~9 months, Campus round in Dec

A3.) **The Family** - <http://thefamily.co>



Incubation type – Virtual accelerator

Sectors – Any

Description – An accelerator perfect for ongoing support from idea to scale up, the mentoring offered is all done virtually. While there is no direct funding offered, there is no fee for joining the program. Perfect for people who want to be an entrepreneur but have many responsibilities still going on.

Support offered - Workshops / seminars, mentoring

Cost for participation – None

Duration – Ongoing, no specific time period

A4.) **UnLtd – Starting Up** - <http://unltd.org.uk/>



Incubation type – Other (Awards)

Sectors – Social Enterprise

- Aged 16 and older
- Living in the UK and idea based in the UK

Description - With a good resume of helping 253 entrepreneurs last year alone, UnLtd are well known for their incredible support on social ventures. With many different money awards ranging from £500 - £15,000 that all come with bespoke coaching, you can try your budding start-up ideas centered around helping contribute to UK social welfare. UnLtd even offer scheduled programs focused on different hot topics, such as the elderly, making them perfect for entrepreneurs with people-centric mission.

Support offered – Mentoring, Direct funding (£500 – £15,000)

Cost for participation - None

Duration – 12 months, no specific time period

A5.) **Founder institute** - <https://fi.co/?target=london>



Incubation type – Accelerator

Sectors – Any

Description - If you want to get some quality start-up training and are willing to pay a fee, then check out the founder's institute program. Originally from Silicon Valley, this 4-month program teaches you useful skills and lessons done by renowned CEOs. With no particular sectorial focus, you will have an early stage business ready to be launched by the end of the program.

Support offered – Mentoring, network connections, training

Cost for participation - ~£5000

Duration – 4 months, Applications close May, Program from June – Sept

A6.) Hatch Female Founders - <https://femalefounders.london/>

Hatch

Female Founders

Incubation type - Incubator

Sectors - Any (BAME preferred, female entrepreneurs)

Description - An incubator which hosts weekly workshops scheduled specifically for working women who may also be busy with children, this program is perfect for BAME women entrepreneurs. Costing £150 per person, their classes go through numerous necessary skills including tech and accountancy support, all taught by iconic female founders.

Support offered - Seminars / workshops, tech / accountancy support, mentoring

Cost for participation - £150 per person

Duration - 4 months, no specific times

A7.) Skillsgym - <https://www.theskillsgym.com/>

SKILLSGYM

Incubation type - Pre-accelerator

Sectors - Any

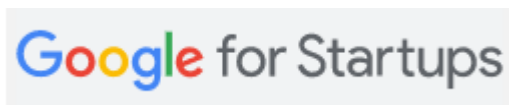
Description - If you are really stuck on to proceed with an idea to turn it into a business, then skillsgym's many workshops will help guide you through the skills and tools you can use. This organisation requires little commitment, unlike other programs, meaning you can simply choose to go to the workshops that will help you most and still attend other high commitment programs. Keep in mind these lively workshops have to be signed up beforehand and can last anywhere from 3 hours to 6 weeks

Support offered - Training, seminars / workshops

Cost of participation - Varies based on the workshop

Duration – Can be from 3 hours to 6 weeks, varies based on the workshop

A8.) **Campus London** - <https://www.campus.co/london/>



Incubation type – Incubator

Sectors – Any

Description – What better place to network and collaborate with other budding entrepreneurs than a coworking space created by one of the most prominent tech giants out there. They host multiple workshops over the year that is sure to help inspire and support your business along.

Support offered - Office / Workspace, Seminars / Workshops, Networking connections

Cost for participation – Free events; from £275 per desk p/m

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

A9.) **Foodbytes** - <https://www.foodbytesworld.com/apply-to-pitch-2/>



Incubation type – Accelerator

Sectors - Food

Description - Having a food start-up can usually feel quite daunting when joining accelerators chockful of tech-based entrepreneurs, so here's the perfect program for all the foodies! With no cost to participate, this 2 day accelerator will teach you the fundamentals of the industry and get your food start-up ready for launch.

Support offered - Mentoring, Networking connections, Access to investors

Cost for participation – None

Duration – 2 days, November

A10.) **FinTech Innovation Lab London** - <https://www.fintechinnovationlab.com/london/>



Incubation type – Accelerator

Sectors - FinTech

Description – This 12-week accelerator starting in August is an ideal program for any FinTech ideas that you want to grow into a business. Completely free to participate, this program hosts some demo days by the end of it to showcase your product to many potential investors and partners.

Support offered - Networking connections, Mentoring, Training, Demo days

Cost to participate - None

Duration – 12 weeks, August – April

Honourable mentions – Startup.co <https://startups.co.uk/about-us/>



Empowering UK startups since 2000

Description – This independent organisation has been helping start-ups since 2000. They have many free online resources aimed at helping entrepreneurs start their business in the best possible position, making it perfect if you are at a loss of where to start.

Stage 2 – Building your enterprise

For whom: Already have the basics of your idea down and started crafting your MVP (minimum viable product)? Gained some interest with potential customers and want to launch your business? Then try out these resources here.

*B1.) Wells Fargo Startup Accelerator



Incubation type - Virtual accelerator

Sectors – Other digital technology

- Companies involved in analytics, big data, artificial intelligence, mobile, cybersecurity, payments, blockchain, robotics, digital marketing, Internet of Things (IoT), authentication, wearables, and operations, among others
- Companies that improve Wells Fargo's business relations

Description - The Wells Fargo accelerator is perfect for ambitious entrepreneurs with a digital technology MVPs, with all the hands-on support offered virtually enabling you to start your business wherever you like. It is also great for start-ups that don't have a market created yet, as the accelerator partnership allows for you to utilise your products on their business relations, helping you gain the experience you need to launch independently. With only a 4.9% minority stake taken and no fee to join, you truly will launch independently while getting up to £1,000,000 in funding.

Support offered - Mentoring, Networking connections, Direct funding (up to £1,000,000)

Cost for participation – None

Duration – 6 Months, no specific time period

*B2.) Bethnal Green Ventures - <https://bethnalgreenventures.com/>



Incubation type – Accelerator

Sectors - Health and wellbeing / Education / Social Enterprise / Public sector Innovation / Energy and the Environment

Description – If you're in the process of launching a tech start-up made to benefit society, and are need of a local active VC who can grant some extra funding to give your launch some extra "oomph", then look no further than BGV. Having backed 127 tech start-ups, with up to £80M follow-on investment raised, the program offered by them comes with a office space, plenty of quality workshops and mentoring, and even some direct funds.

Support offered - Office / Workspace, Mentoring, Access to investors, Seminars / Workshops, Demo day, Direct funding

Cost of participation – None

Duration – 12 weeks, Applications in February, Program from May – July

*B3.) **The Trampery Republic** - <https://thetrampery.com/workspaces/republic/>



Incubator type – Coworking space plus

Sectors – Any

Description – The Trampery own multiple coworking spaces all over London that will give your start-up the right environment to grow your business and make invaluable connections. Most of their offices even offer some mentoring or seminars at certain times, making their monthly rent worth every penny.

Support offered - Office / Workspace

Cost of participation - £120+VAT - £180+VAT

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

B4.) **Startup Manufactory** - <https://www.startupmanufactory.com/business-model-consulting>



Incubator Type – Other (Consulting)

Sectors – Any

- Teams smaller than 10 generally

Description – If the start-up accelerators are too generalised for you, perhaps startup manufactory's paid consulting service is what you need. Their personalised mentoring and seminars / workshops are catered to your business's needs, without the time restrictions or limited resources that some accelerator programs have.

Support offered - Seminars / Workshops, Mentoring

Cost for participation - £90/h or £150/2h

Duration - No time restriction, no specific time

B5.) **Mewe360** - <http://mewe360.com/>



Incubator Type - Incubator

Sectors - Creative Industries and Design

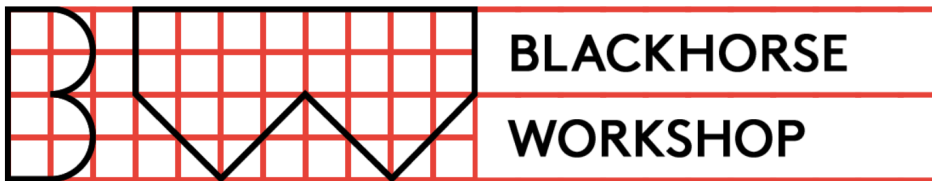
Description – An incubator for the creative industries start-ups around, this office space comes with top quality mentoring and workshops to take your business off the ground. They have a year-long program to help grow your business, and a general membership to have access to the facilities around

Support offered - Mentoring, Networking connections, Office / Workspace, Direct funding, Seminars / Workshops

Cost for participation - £1500 for the program, £175 for a yearly membership

Duration – 12 months, no specific time

B6.) **Blackhorse workshop** - <http://www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk/>



Incubator type – Maker space

Sectors - Any (Creative industries and design preferred)

Description - This makerspace is perfect if you have the basis of your start-up down and need to start creating your MVP. This place welcomes people of all skill levels, with everyone able to sign up for beginner courses as well as ask roaming mentors to ask for guidance. After a small mandatory induction, you the resources and bench of the Blackhorse workshop are at your disposal!

Support offered – Office / Workspace

Cost for participation - From £290 per month - £390 per month

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

B7.) Seedcamp - <https://seedcamp.com/>



Incubator type – VC

Sectors - Other Digital Technology

Description – Venture capitalists are one of an entrepreneur's key allies when looking to launch and grow their business. One of the first UK startup accelerators on the scene Seedcamp has evolved to be much more like an active VC these days. Seedcamp has a strong reputation in Europe and is one of the best networks globally.

Support offered - Mentoring, Direct funding, Office / Workspace, Networking connections

Cost for participation - None

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

B8.) Emerge Venture Lab - <https://emerge.education/startups/>



Incubator type – Accelerator

Sectors - Education

Description – The spotlight is so often on tech start-ups that entrepreneurs with innovative ideas in other sectors are sometimes pushed to the side. Emerge Venture Lab ensures that education start-ups get the help and resources they need to bring their business to the forefront. While it is a simple

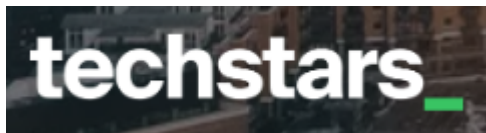
accelerator program, they also offer office space to build your business during that time, as well as mentoring and plenty of networking connections to get your business off the ground.

Support offered - Office / Workspace, Direct funding, Mentoring, Network connections

Cost for participation - None

Duration – 3 months, no specific time

B9.) **TechStars** - <https://www.techstars.com/accelerators/london>



Incubator type – Accelerator

Sectors – Other Digital Tech

- Single founders are discouraged

Description – One of the world's biggest and most well-known accelerators, TechStars host many events all over the globe. They have a huge track record of nurturing promising start-ups into successful businesses with their huge selection of programs. While it is traditionally a physical accelerator, they have begun hosting virtual ones considering the recent circumstance, demonstrating their adaptability and dedication to entrepreneurs everywhere.

Support offered - Office / Workspace, Mentoring, Demo days, Access to investors, Direct funding

Cost to participate – None

Duration – 12 weeks, Applications Feb – May, Program Sep – Dec

B10.) **QM BioEnterprise Innovation Centre** - <https://www.qmbioenterprises.com/>



Incubator type - Coworking space plus

Sectors – Life sciences / Health and wellbeing

Description – Where better to look for lab space than our very own Queen Mary BioEnterprise Innovation Center. A perfect environment to expand your Life Sciences or Health and Wellbeing startup

with all the laboratory space and equipment you need, as well as networking connections and access to investors to continue the growth of your business. Located right next to Whitechapel hospital, the location is prime for convenience and accessibility..

Support offered - Networking connections, Access to investors, Office / Work space, Laboratory space

Cost to participate - None

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

Honourable mentions – Nitrous <https://nitrous.city/about/>

The logo for Nitrous, featuring the word "NITROUS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. A small flame icon is integrated into the letter 'O'.

Description – This organisation pairs start-ups with established firms, therefore allowing entrepreneurs a guaranteed market for their product. This will help start-ups launch and grow into an established business without the uncertainty that comes with traditional operational circumstances.

Stage 3 – Scaling your enterprise

For whom: Already been operating for several months now and have a dedicated customer base? Wanting to diversify to different markets or gain more customers? Then these resources should help you.

*C1.) **Wise Program**



Incubation type – Other (Rolling Accelerator)

Sectors – Any

- UK Registered

Description – A rolling program that lets you join as you please, with workshops being held weekly at Farringdon, this accelerator is perfect for business that are looking to scale up but can't afford to strictly attend a 12 month program while running operations. Innovation warehouse dedicates a private set of mentors who are normally experts in your industry and investment needs for you to call on for support at any time, as well as a discounted rate for their offices where you can see them physically easily.

Support offered - Office / Work space, Mentoring, Networking connection, Access to investors, Direct funding

Cost for participation - Varies based on support needed

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

*C2.) **Virgin Start Up Loans** - <https://www.virginstartup.org/start-up-loans>



Incubator type – Active seed / VC

Sectors – Any

Description – Virgin Start Up Loans are a great VC to get funding from, due to their widespread success and prominent track record at supporting smaller businesses. Their startup loan amounts and interest rate are incredibly flexible and forgiving for any early stage business, and the removal of workshops no

longer necessary since the business is at a later stage means more time can be spent on growing the business.

Support offered - Direct funding, Mentoring

Cost to participate – Borrowed Funds of £500 - £25,000 per cofounder

- Borrow over 1-5 years at a fixed interest rate of 6% p.a.

Duration – Up to 5 years repayment, no specific time

*C3.) **The Unilever Foundry** - <https://www.theunileverfoundry.com/>



Incubator type – Accelerator

Sectors - Other Digital Technology / B2B / Social Enterprise / Energy and the Environment

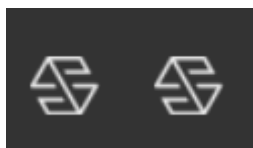
Description – Another prominent program by a well-known organisation, this accelerator is best for established start-ups looking to scale well. Their mentoring and funding offered is concluded by a contract with Unilever itself, thus resulting in businesses getting secured large scale distribution,

Support offered - Mentoring, Direct funding

Cost to participate - None

Duration – 3 months, no specific time

C4.) **Studio Graphene** - <https://www.studiographene.com/>



Incubator type – Other (Tech Support)

Sectors - Any

Description - If you need a well-designed website or app to aid your business for anything from customer interactivity to workforce management, then studio graphene is the best thing for you. They approach each client with a personalised and in-depth analysis to deliver high quality bespoke digital goods for your use. Their services will provide the right tools to enhance or even promote your businesses scale up.

Support offered - Tech support

Cost to participate - Varies based on project

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

C5.) **Neverbland** - <https://neverbland.com/about>



Incubator type – Other (tech support)

Sectors – Any

Description – Another amazing digital product creator, Neverbland don't just accept start-up clients; they actively encourage it. For a small equity stake into your company, you can get their premium supply of products at a discount, which will help create the perfect product or tool needed to scale up.

Support offered – Tech support

Cost to participate – Varies based on project

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

C6.) **Hatch Female Founders Accelerator** - <https://femalefounders.london/>



Incubator type – Accelerator

Sectors – Any

- Women founder
- Business must turnover £75,000, have one full-time staff or equivalent
- You are ready to invest time to work on your business' strategy and can commit to at least 75% of the programme time, You can commit to paying the programme fee before the programme starts

Description – Having already earned its way on this resource for stage 1 businesses, Hatch Female Founders have another good program for female founders of businesses ready to scale up. These fortnightly workshops will get you ready for the expansion your business will experience.

Support offered - Seminars / Workshops, Mentoring, Legal / Accountancy support, Investment Readiness

Cost to participate - £300 per person

Duration - 6 months (fortnightly on Fridays), Program starts April / July

C7.) **NHS Innovation Accelerator** - <https://nhsaccelerator.com/>

NHS Innovation Accelerator

Incubator type – Accelerator

Sectors - Health and wellbeing

- Fellowship program so a named individual needs to make the application and be willing to share their learnings about scaling in the NHS Accelerator for evidence-based innovations ready to scale in the NHS.
- Not for start-up but for established teams with resource to be able to scale in the NHS
Innovations must have an evidence base to demonstrate patient outcomes at reduced cost

Description – The NHS Innovation accelerator will help reach customers at the scale you desire through the networking connections and range it provides.

Support offered - Mentoring, Access to experts, Seminars / Workshops, Direct funding, Networking connections

Cost to participate - None

Duration - 12 months initially, no specific time

C8.) **Bathtub2Boardroom** - <http://www.bathtub2boardroom.com/>



Incubator type – Incubator type

Sectors – Any

- A team of less than 5, raised less than £150K seed & intend to create jobs - we don't support freelancers & contractors.
- Within 1 year of trading.

Description – A program that supports startup in engaging and creative ways, to create the innovative atmosphere that entrepreneurs desire. Their office space is good value considering the quality of the support offered at such a low price.

Support offered - Office / Workspace, Mentoring, Training, Networking connections, Funding advice

Cost to participate - From £55+VAT pm - £250+VAT pm

Duration – No maximum - min. 3 month membership, no specific time

C9.) **Seedrs** - <https://www.seedrs.com/raise>



Incubation type – Active seed / VC

Sectors - Any

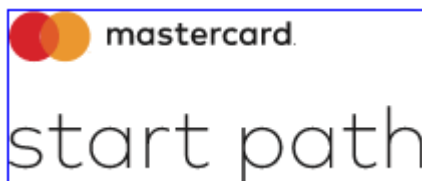
Description – Seedrs is perfect for businesses that want the funds to scale up and already have all the expertise necessary to optimally do it. Their ability to raise funds is paralleled by none demonstrated by their incredible track record, funding startups such as Revolut. Their services are cheap for established businesses due to taking a small percentage of funds raised, making them ideal for entrepreneurs who do not want to spend exorbitant amount.

Support offered - Direct funding, Networking connections, Mentoring

Cost to participate - 7% of total funds + £2500 (excl VAT)

Duration – No time restriction, no specific time

C10.) **Start Path Accelerator** - <https://www.startpath.com/>



Incubation type – Virtual Accelerator

Sectors - Fintech / Commerce

Description – A great accelerator for established firms because it offers direct funding, networking connections and support that is enforced. Entrepreneurs across the globe can access this accelerator since it is virtual, leaving you to run your business wherever it needs to be done.

Support offered - Direct funding, Access to experts, Networking connections

Cost to participate - None

Duration – 6 months, No specific time

Honourable mentions - Innovate UK https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search?_ga=2.161201145.593595152.1587032356-1712071031.1583401221



Description – Innovate UK is part of the government’s enterprise and innovation initiative, home to many programs that appeal to many different sectors and markets. The direct funding offered to subsidise research and roll out of specifically themed products and services is sure to be alluring to start-ups looking to scale in the near future.