COHORT
4

I-Corps@SFI Academy

Cohort Kick-Off: April 9th 2024

Application Deadline: 13:00 April 3rd

Contact: i-corps@sfi.ie

What is the I-Corps@SFI Academy?

The I-Corps@SFI Academy is a training programme delivered virtually over a 5-week period to support researchers (and non-academic staff) to develop skills in innovation and evidence-based entrepreneurship. Training is delivered by members of the NSF I-Corps South Node based at Georgia Tech.

The objectives of the I-Corps@SFI Academy are:

- To train researchers in evidence-based entrepreneurship enabling them to explore impact opportunities for their research and prepare them to apply to the SFI/NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme and other innovation programmes.
- To establish a network of qualified instructors in Ireland to deliver training within Research Bodies.

Admission to the programme will be on a competitive basis with cohort size strictly limited to 20 teams. If an application is successful, but the cohort is filled, a place will be allocated on a subsequent cohort.

Applicants should be prepared to commit to the full 5-week duration of the training programme.

Who Can Participate?

Participation is open to **researchers working in a STEM or AHSS discipline** and **non-academic Research Bodies staff** members. As part of the I-Corps@SFI Academy, researchers will participate in training to develop skills in applying the NSF I-Corps methodology of evidence-based entrepreneurship, while non-academic Research Bodies staff members can avail of training that will enable them to coach researchers in applying the NSF I-Corps methodology of evidence-based entrepreneurship.

How To Apply?

Applications may be submitted under one of two streams:

- **Stream 1 - Research Teams -** *Stream 1* is for teams comprising two researchers (at independent investigator[1], postgraduate, or postdoctoral career stage), working in a STEM or AHSS discipline, based at an eligible Research Body. Researchers do not need to be work in the same discipline or be based at the same institution. However, researchers should be working on the same project or be willing to work together as part of the cohort (i.e., for the purposes of training, researchers in a team will work together on the same problem).

- **Stream 2 – Instructor Trainee -** *Stream 2* is designed to support non-academic Research Bodies staff members* responsible for the translation/commercialisation of research (e.g. a member of Technology Transfer Office staff). Under Stream 2, teams must comprise a non-academic Research Bodies staff member and two researchers (same requirements as above). Under this stream, the non-academic Research Bodies staff member will mentor the researchers on their team through the cohort. (*NSF I-Corps Alumni may also be considered provided they are permanent staff members in a Research Body and were previously funded as either Principal Investigator or Entrepreneurial Lead under the SFI/NSF I-Corps@SFI Entrepreneurial Training Programme).

Observers

A limited number of observer places will be available for Research Bodies representatives who may wish to learn about the NSF I-Corps methodology. In this case, observers may attend the team cohort component only but will not be able to participate in other activities. Those interested in attending as observers should contact i-corps@sfi.ie.

Who Will Provide the Training and How Will It Be Delivered?

Training will be provided by a highly experienced instructor team from the NSF I-Corps South Node based at Georgia Tech. The lead instructor will be Prof Keith McGreggor who is the Executive Director of the I-Corps South Node and Director of Georgia Tech's VentureLab.

Training will be cohort-based and will be delivered **virtually** to teams over a 5-week period. NSF's I-Corps methodology will be used throughout. The last two days of training will have an optional in-person option for teams that wish to attend.

Research Bodies staff members will participate in an instructor training stream over a 5-week period. Full details of cohort dates etc can be found in the schedule below.

When will training commence?

Trainee instructors will commence training on **Monday 8th of April 2024**. Researchers will commence training on **Tuesday 9th of April 2024**. Please see table above for details.

Further Information and Next Steps.

If you are interested in participating either as a researcher, to explore the impact opportunities of your research, or as a trainee instructor, please contact Carla Marina Soriano (Email – i-corps@sfi.ie) at Science Foundation Ireland. Following an initial discussion, an application form will be made available. Note application forms must be completed by the TTO.

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[1] Lead Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) on a competitively awarded, internationally peer reviewed research grant.

Key Dates
Application Deadline: **13:00 on April 3rd 2024**
Instructor Training Kick-Off: April 8th 2024
Researcher Training Kick-Off: April 9th 2024
Cohort concludes: May 9th 2024

Cohort 4 Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Location	Time	Activities (and Attendees)
1	1	08/04/2024	Online	13:00 - 17:00	Introduction (Trainee Instructors only)
	2	09/04/2024	Online	13:00 - 13:15	Session Briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
				13:15 – 16:45	Setting the scene (Researchers and Trainee Instructors)
				16:45 - 17:00	Session De-briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
	3	10/04/2024	Online	13:00 - 13:15	Session Briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
				13:15 – 16:45	Customer Discovery (Researchers and Trainee Instructors)
				16:45 - 17:00	Session De-briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
2	4	15/04/2024	Online	30 min per team	Office Hours and Asynchronous Content
3					Self-directed Opportunity Discovery
4	5	29/04/2024	Online	30 min per team	Office Hours and Asynchronous Content
5	6	08/05/2024	SFI Offices/ Online	10:00 - 10:15	Session Briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
				10:15 - 14:45	Storytelling (Researchers and Trainee Instructors)
				14:45 - 15:00	Session De-briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
	7	09/05/2024	SFI Offices/ Online	10:00 - 10:15	Session Briefing (Trainee Instructors only)
				10:15 - 14:45	Paths Forward (Researchers and Trainee Instructors)
				14:45 - 15:00	Session De-briefing (Trainee Instructors only)

About the Trainers

The I-Corps@SFI Academy trainers are:

- **Melissa Heffner** – Melissa creates programmes centred on evidence-based entrepreneurship and the Lean Startup methodology. Much of her time is spent executing on the I-Corps South Node award and on internal commercialization programmes at Georgia Tech. She developed the Instructor Academy programme to train research faculty in the lean startup methodology.
- **Sara Henderson** – Sara develops programmes and new curricula rooted in the Lean Startup methodology. She creates and teaches entrepreneurial teams through the Georgia Tech I-Corps Sites programme and the I-Corps South Node regional cohorts. She also has been instrumental in evolving the I-Corps South Instructor Academy and recently co-initiated the Mentor Academy programme.
- **Keith McGreggor** – Keith is the Director of Georgia Tech's VentureLab, a lead instructor for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Corps programme, and Executive Director of the I-Corps South Node. Keith is also a Professor of the Practice in the School of Interactive Computing in the College of Computing at Georgia Tech.