



students startups

Program Background

Invest Atlanta is further developing a tech talent pipeline by subsidizing Atlanta-based students to complete paid internships with Atlanta tech startups. This will support growing startups with funding some of their immediate tech talent needs.

Problem

- Startups have short-term tech talent needs as they scale, but they are cash poor.
- Entrepreneurship requires experiential learning and students have few connections that transcend academia into the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. Therefore, students may be less likely to remain in Atlanta upon graduation.
- Startups tend to provide volunteer-based positions, which can create a barrier to entry for students lacking resources or from underrepresented backgrounds.

Solution

- Invest Atlanta and partners will subsidize students attending universities in the City of Atlanta to pursue paid summer internships with Atlanta-based tech startups.
- Local universities, including Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, Spelman, Emory and SCAD, will promote the opportunity to students from each school who are high performing and show entrepreneurial potential.
- Startups will commit to provide mentorship and create work plan with substantive and varied work to expose students to various tech-related careers.
- Students will commit to 35 hours/week in the program and should display entrepreneurial values such as creativity, analytical thinking, problem-solving, curiosity, adaptability and flexibility, technical skills or interest.



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About the Students2Startups 2019 Cohort:

- Received nearly 200 student applications and 60 startup applications
- Over 77 percent of participants in 2019 cohort are people of color
- A majority of the participating startups are led by female founders
- 100 percent of startup respondents said they would highly recommend the program

Program Timeline

Application opens for Students & Startups.	Dec. 2019
Application closes. Begin conducting Startup interviews.	Jan. 31, 2020
Conclude Startup interviews & distribute student applicant packets to startups.	Feb. 14, 2020
Finalize participating intern cohort	Feb. 29, 2020



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FAQs

As an Atlanta-based student, what do I need to show to prove my eligibility for Students2Startups?

Students **must attend 1 of 7 Atlanta-based universities**. This includes Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, Spelman, Emory and SCAD. The following materials will be requested as part of the application process to confirm student status:

1. Scan of your student ID card
2. Most recent transcript (official or unofficial)

Offers for the Students2Startups program are contingent on submitting the following documents (I-9) to approve eligibility for employment in the U.S. Should you be selected as an intern for the 2020 program, you will be asked to present the following documents.

There are three categories of documents that you are allowed to submit. Employees are required to present either one of the documents from List A or one of the documents from List B, and one of the documents from List C.

List A (Documents that establish both identity and employment eligibility)

- United States Passport
- Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-551)
- Temporary Resident Card (I-688)
- Employment Authorization Document (I-766, I-688B, or I-688A)
- Foreign Passport with temporary I-551 stamp
- For aliens authorized to work only for a specific employer, foreign passport with Form I-94 authorizing employment with this employer



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List B (Documents that establish identity only)

- Driver's license issued by a state or outlying possession
- ID card issued by a state or outlying possession
- Native American tribal document
- Canadian driver's license or ID card with a photograph (for Canadian aliens authorized to work only for a specific employer)
- School ID card with a photography
- Voter's registration card
- U.S. Military card or draft record
- Military dependent's ID Card

List C (Documents that establish employment eligibility only)

- Social Security account number card without employment restrictions
- Original or certified copy of a birth certificate with an official seal issued by a state or local government agency
- Certification of Birth Abroad
- U.S. Citizen ID Card
- Native American tribal document
- Form I-94 authorizing employment with this employer (for aliens authorized to work only for a specific employer)
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240)

How many students or startups receive the opportunity?

We will place 30 students from an Atlanta-based institution (GSU, Morehouse, Spelman, Clarke-Atlanta, Emory, SCAD, and Georgia Tech). We will also be working to identify 30 scale-up tech startups from across the Atlanta ecosystem to participate in the program.



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What are the terms of the internship?

Students and Startups will negotiate the terms of the internship with each other. Generally, the student will be required to work 35 hours per week on site (at the startup's place of work) for a 12-week term. For example, a term of internship could be June (4 weeks), July (4.5), August (4.5) with one week break through the course of the internship. Any difficulty in the schedule should be brought up during the interview directly with the startup company. All program and eligibility documentation will need to be completed and approved prior to the students' start date.

How involved is Invest Atlanta in the program?

Invest Atlanta facilitates the program by connecting students with Atlanta-based startups to intern with. However, once the internship matches are made, it is important to note that the student is interning with the startup, not Invest Atlanta, so ongoing communication on performance, deliverables, and management will happen with the startups.

How should I prepare my application?

STUDENTS: Being a strong entrepreneur doesn't always mean you have the highest GPA but it does mean that you have some of the following skills: creativity, analytical thinking skills, problem solving, curiosity, adaptability and flexibility, technical skills or interest.

STARTUPS: It's important that you show us 1- your ability to commit time to mentoring your student intern, 2- you show a variety of work experiences to the student intern (think exposure to different departments), and that 3- they have the opportunity to own deliverables during their time with your startup.



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What if I'm a student and I haven't heard back about the program?

When you submit your application, startups will review the student applications and reach out directly to interview students that they are interested in interviewing. Startups will be interviewing students beginning in mid-February. If you have additional questions regarding your application status, contact Lexie Newhouse at newhouse@investatlanta.com.

What if I'm a student and I have questions?

We will be visiting local universities to answer any questions regarding the program. Dates with the coordinating universities will be posted in January 2020. You are welcome to attend any of the information sessions, even if you do not attend that institution.

What if I don't get a Students2Startups internship?

As mentioned, this program is competitive, and we don't have the capacity to place all of our strong candidates. If you choose to elect to be eligible for other internships in your application, we can include your resume to be passed along to startup companies looking for interns this summer. They will contact you directly if they wish to move forward with an internship.

Still have questions?

Send a note to Lexie Newhouse, Innovation in Government Fellow at newhouse@investatlanta.com.