



CDL-Oxford Programme Information

July 2019

The CDL-Oxford Team

Creative Destruction Lab

About

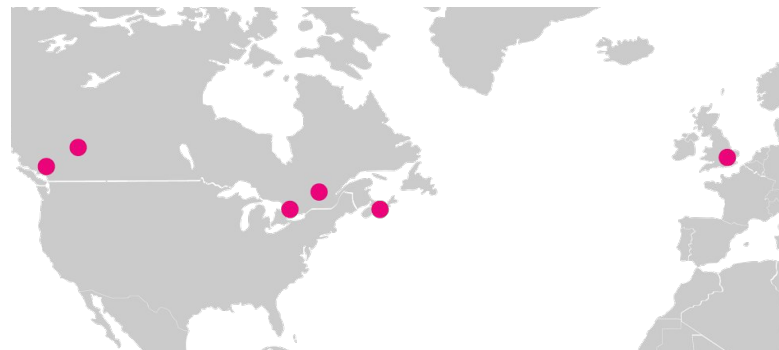
The CDL is a programme for seed-stage massively scalable science-based companies.

Ventures attend five in-person objective-setting sessions between November 2019 and June 2020. CDL-Oxford's Session dates are:

#1 - Nov 15 | #2 - Jan 24 | #3 - Mar 6 | #4 - April 24

Super Session: June 10-11 (Toronto)

CDL is a non-profit organization. There are no fees for participation and CDL does not take any equity.



Scope and Reach

6 Sites

8 Streams

25 spots at CDL-Oxford

400 spots across the network

CDL Sites and Streams



AI



Blockchain-AI



Cities



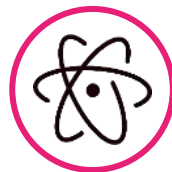
Energy



Health



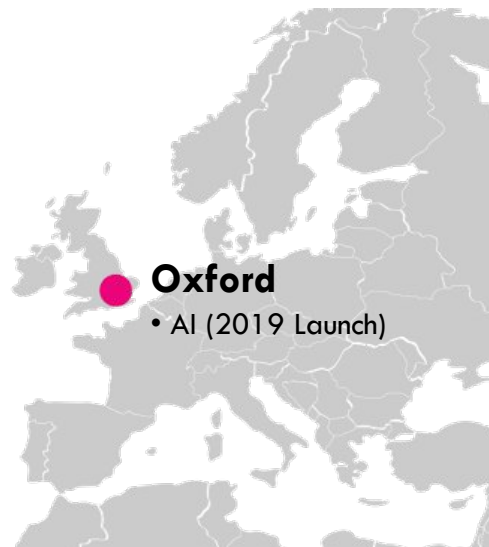
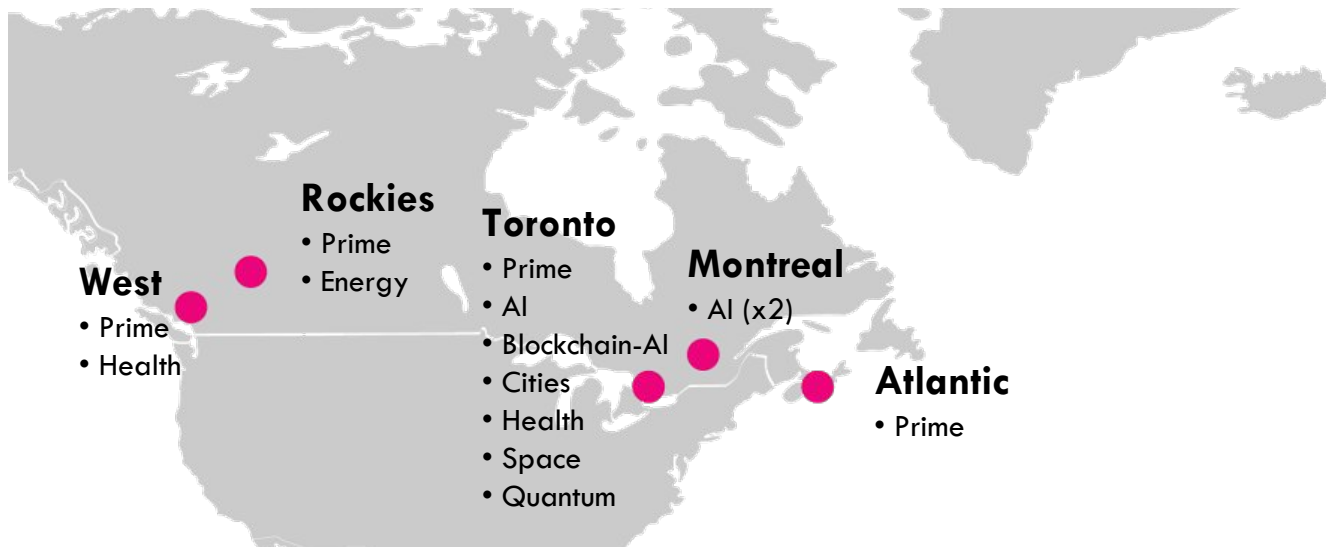
Prime



Quantum
Machine Learning



Space



What We Offer

Objective-Based Mentoring

Milestone-based coaching from mentors who have participated in the founding, management, and value-creation of significant science- and technology-based companies.

Expert Technical Advice

Feedback and support from scientists, engineers, and other subject matter experts who are leaders in their respective fields.

Hands-On Student Support

Access to business students at top universities who are enrolled in the CDL facilitated courses; students provide dedicated venture support on a project basis.

Growth Resource Access

Opportunities to access additional resources through the CDL community such as invaluable network connections and introductions, referrals for key hires, and investment from mentors.

Admission

Ventures that meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

1. **Team** is driven, committed, and has deep technical expertise.
2. Market opportunity and business model allow for **massive scalability**.
3. Ventures pursuing commercial opportunities predicated on exploiting **novel technological innovations**.

Programme Structure

All admitted ventures begin the 9-month programme in the Fall and attend up to 5 full-day “Sessions,” all spread approximately 8 weeks apart.

The Sessions include **small-group meetings** in the morning with mentors in order to formulate 3 draft objectives for the venture to sprint towards over the next 8 weeks. In the afternoon, all mentors convene in a **large-group discussion** during which each venture, and its prospective objectives, are presented, debated, and finalized. Each venture leaves the Session with 3 bespoke objectives they commit to completing in the next 8 weeks.

At the end of each Session, the CDL mentors are asked which ventures they are interested in mentoring and/or investing in, and make commitments to coach one or more companies in between CDL Sessions. If no CDL mentor agrees to mentor a particular company, the venture is dropped from the programme. Ventures are dropped at the end of each Session, and approximately 50% complete all 5 Sessions.

Ventures do not have to relocate to Oxford, however attendance by founders to all 5 Sessions, in person, is mandatory and there are no exceptions.



Example Small-Group Meeting

Example Large-Group Discussion



Application Process

CDL receives thousands of applications, and selects its cohorts through a multi-week shortlisting and interviewing process. Applications can be submitted through the CDL website [here](#).

Application Deadline for CDL's 2019-20 cohorts: **August 12, 2019**

Select CDL-Oxford Mentors



Elizabeth Caley
Director, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative



Tom Hulme
Partner, Google Ventures



Barney Pell
Ex-NASA; Co-Founder, Moon Express



Patrick Pichette
Former CFO, Google



William Tunstall-Pedoe
Founder, Evi (acquired by Amazon to power Alexa)



Chris Wade
Founder, Cambridge Positioning Systems



Jane Walerud
Partner, Walerud Ventures



Shivon Zilis
Project Director, Neuralink, Tesla

CDL Alumni

Creative Destruction Lab's market for judgement supports the creation of new products and services that deliver increased productivity via innovation.



Oil & Energy

Validere makes a handheld device that can instantly assess quality specs of oil and hazard profile of waste.

Capital Raised:
\$10.7M



Consumer

North (formerly Thalmic Labs) has developed Focals smart glasses that enable individuals to stay connected.

Capital Raised:
\$159.6M



Enterprise

Nymi develops a secure, wearable authenticator that increases both convenience and security.

Capital Raised:
\$36.3M



Quantum Computing

Xanadu aims to build the first large-scale and room-temperature quantum computer using predominantly off-the-shelf and affordable components.

Capital Raised:
\$9M

CDL Alumni

Creative Destruction Lab's market for judgement supports the creation of new products and services that deliver increased productivity via innovation.



Energy

Salient Energy is developing the zinc-ion battery, a cheaper, safer, and longer-lasting alternative to lithium-ion batteries.

Capital Raised:
\$500K



Space

Kepler Communications is a space-based telecommunications company that provides internet services for space assets.

Capital Raised:
\$21.1M



Cities

InnerSpace has created a device that allows for indoor GPS tracking and can instantly deliver indoor maps and real-time location usage data.

Capital Raised:
\$1.3M



Agri-tech

SomaDetect has developed an optical sensor technology that measures critical indicators of milk quality via light-scattering, computer vision and deep-learning.

Capital Raised:
\$2.4M

FAQ

Q: WHAT PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES DOES CDL PROVIDE?

1. Objective-based coaching from senior entrepreneurs.
2. Expert technical advice from leading scientists and engineers.
3. Hands-on student support.
4. Opportunities to access additional resources through the CDL community such as invaluable network connections and introductions, referrals for key hires, and investment from mentors.

Q: DO I HAVE TO RELOCATE TO OXFORD?

No. Teams are free to operate wherever they choose to provided they can travel to each Session throughout the year. You cannot attend the Sessions remotely.

Q: HOW IS CDL DIFFERENT THAN OTHER INCUBATOR AND ACCELERATOR PROGRAMMES?

The CDL programme is a marketplace for judgment; we focus on curating the highest quality mentors to help companies prioritize effectively. We are committed to the commercialization of massively scalable, science-based companies and do not take any equity.

Q: WHO ARE THE MENTORS?

The mentors are one of the core features of the programme and provide mentorship, and in many cases financing, to the ventures. The group is comprised of people who have built, scaled, and exited significant technology companies and are still active operators and/or angel investors.

FAQ

Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE STUDENTS?

CDL enlists top students from its home universities. The students provide support with business development, market analysis/research, and finance. Although not mandatory, CDL looks for teams who will work cooperatively with them and welcome the support.

Q: HOW MUCH FUNDING WILL I GET?

There is no guaranteed amount of investment but the majority of the companies who are successful in the programme receive investment from the CDL mentors. The amount varies and is based on a number of factors. Several companies in each cohort will raise Pre-Seed or Seed rounds in the range of £500K to several million.

Q: HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

All interested ventures must apply online. CDL-Oxford will interview shortlisted candidates on September 12th, after which a decision committee will meet to decide who to extend offers to.

Q: WHAT STAGE SHOULD MY COMPANY BE AT BEFORE APPLYING?

Most companies that are admitted into the CDL programme have a working prototype or proof of concept and will be ready to raise their seed round during the programme. CDL will accept companies that are earlier or later stage in some cases if they are exceptional in other areas.

Q: CAN I ENROLL IF I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO ANOTHER INCUBATOR OR ACCELERATOR?

Yes, CDL can be complementary to other programmes and many other incubators and accelerators encourage participation in CDL.

FAQ

Q: WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT?

Ventures must attend all Sessions in person, commit to providing information to the CDL team on a timely basis, and work collaboratively with the mentors and students. The programme's milestone-based structure is designed to help ventures prioritize their workload in a series of eight-week 'sprints'. The more time that is committed to meeting the objectives, the higher the chances are for a venture to stay in the programme and receive funding from mentors.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM DROPPED FROM THE PROGRAMME?

Reasons for being dropped from the programme vary. Ventures are dropped due to inability to hit milestones or loss of interest from the mentors. There are many other reasons companies are dropped that are not a reflection of the potential of the business or the capabilities of the founders. Ventures who are dropped are still CDL Alumni and in some cases may continue to access CDL resources (e.g., student support), as well as alumni programming.

Q: WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF COMPLETING THE PROGRAMME FOR THOSE ACCEPTED?

There is no predetermined number of ventures that are dropped but historically approximately half of the ventures who start in each cohort will complete the programme.

Q: CAN VENTURES BE ENROLLED IN TWO CDL COHORTS AT ONCE AT DIFFERENT CDL SITES?

No. A venture can only be enrolled in one cohort at one CDL site.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF VENTURES WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS A RESULT OF THE CDL PROGRAM?

North (Waterloo), Atomwise (San Francisco), Deep Genomics (Toronto), Automat (Montreal), Kyndi (Palo Alto), and Heuritech (Paris).

FAQ

Q: WHAT ARE THE FEES TO PARTICIPATE?

There are no fees for participation and CDL does not take any equity. Admission to CDL is 100% merit-based. CDL does not pay expenses.

Q: WHEN ARE THE SESSION DATES FOR THE 2019-20 COHORT?

Session Dates:

Session 1: Nov 15, 2019 (Oxford)

Session 2: Jan 24, 2020 (Oxford)

Session 3: Mar 6, 2020 (Oxford)

Session 4: Apr 24, 2020 (Oxford)

Session 5: Jun 10-11, 2020 (Toronto)

Q: WHEN ARE THE INTERVIEWS FOR THE 2018-19 COHORT?

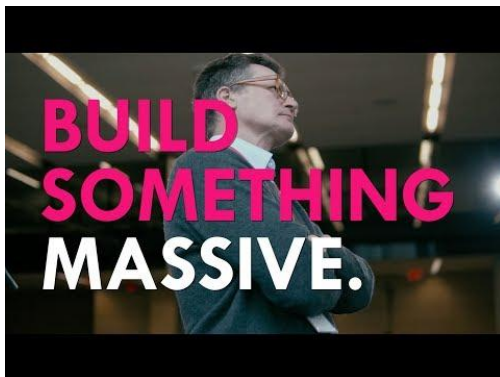
Sep 12, 2018.

Q: IS ATTENDANCE MANDATORY TO ALL 5 SESSIONS?

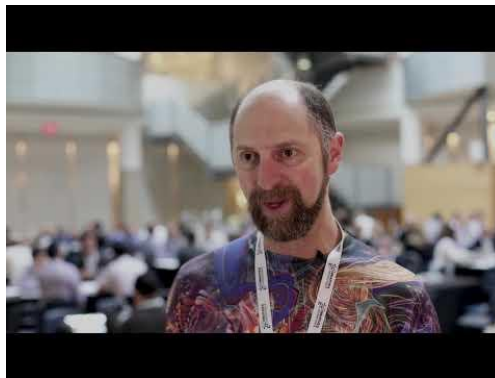
Yes. Non-attendance at a Session will result in the venture being dropped.

Learn More

60 Second Trailer



4-Minute Explainer



In the News

TechCrunch - [Creative Destruction Lab's second Super Session is an intense two-day startup testbed](#)

The Telegraph - [Former Google CFO to coach British spinouts in becoming the next tech winners](#)

Contact & Follow

Contact us as cdl-oxford@creativedestructionlab.com, or follow CDL on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). More information on the CDL including recent news and blog posts are available at creativedestructionlab.com.