



**Ignite Fellow for New Ventures
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York**

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) at Cornell University has launched the Ignite Postdoc for Ventures program – one of the four signature programs of Ignite Cornell Research Lab to Market gap funding series – in January 2022 to fund and train candidates with entrepreneurial outlooks to start technology ventures based on groundbreaking Cornell invention portfolios. The inaugural cohort comprises [five talented Ignite Postdocs](#) pursuing their new journey at Cornell. For this second annual recruitment, the program is expanding to master graduates and is being renamed **Ignite Fellow for New Ventures**.

The program aims to build new solid businesses, grow entrepreneur scientists and engineers, advance technology commercialization, and enrich Cornell's venture ecosystem by creating high-value startup companies based on the partnerships of an Ignite candidate and faculty inventor.

With the strength of Cornell based on its founding principle "... any person ... any study", this program allows aspiring entrepreneurs to find the right innovation among the broad range of remarkable discoveries made in the lab and the diversifying body of faculty innovators.

The program de-risks the entrepreneurship journey by providing a funding package of up to \$120,000, including the fellow's salary compensation for up to two years and funding to conduct basic experiments.

As a Cornell employee, the fellow will be eligible for the [benefits](#) accessible to any Cornell employee.

Successful candidates will be postdoctoral researchers, soon-to-be graduating Ph.D. students, MBA* or MSc graduates interested in new ventures.

The program is specifically interested in varying perspectives and invites applicants from outside the Cornell system, especially from traditionally underrepresented groups, to apply.

To maximize the connection opportunities during the pre-phase, we invite interested candidates to look at the two ways they can be paired with an invention/faculty inventor:

- Visit the [Ignite Fellow Connect](#) webpage that showcases innovations and Cornell faculty actively looking for Ignite Fellow for New Ventures partnerships.
- Search the Center for Technology Licensing's [database of technologies](#) to identify available assets.

The team at the Center for Technology Licensing will make the introduction with the faculty inventors whose interests match the candidates. Pre-selected candidates will be invited on campus to meet with the faculty inventor and potential co-founder to discuss the Ignite Fellowship opportunity.



The targeting starting time for the 2023 cohort of Ignite Fellows is the beginning of Cornell's fiscal year in July. However, the actual starting time may vary depending on the project with the approval of the Committee of Ignite Fellow for New Ventures.

Responsibilities

The program adheres to a 1+1 model: a 12-month phase in a Cornell lab and venture training supervised by Cornell faculty and a 12-month phase in a business incubator mentored by the Incubator.

The candidate will report to their faculty partner during the first phase of the Ignite Fellowship program (up to 12 months). In the second phase of the program—once the company is incorporated—the candidate and founder will report to one of the incubator directors within the Cornell ecosystem at the Center for Life Science Ventures/Praxis/Runway Postdocs.

In both phases, the candidate will work on the technology development (generating necessary data supporting the product development) and will have access to the Incubator as an associate member for focusing on the business side (drafting the business plan, developing connections, etc.).

Requirement

- To qualify for the Ignite program, the candidate should be a Ph.D. holder, a current graduate student expecting a Ph.D. degree within six months of the application, an MBA*, or an MSc holder.
- The candidate is expected to have a strong research record, excellent communication skills, and a strong interest in a career path of their paired technology. The candidate is expected to pick up business, market analysis, and marketing skills at a fast pace.

(*) with a bachelor's or master's degree in STEM

To apply:

- Interested candidates should visit the [Ignite Matching Page](#) to submit an online form during the pre-phase to potentially be connected and matched with a faculty inventor.
- When a match between a candidate and a faculty inventor is agreed upon, the candidate should submit an official Ignite Fellow for New Ventures Application. The submission deadline for the 2023 cohort is **February 28, 2023**.

The selected candidate will be a full-time employee of Cornell University for the duration of the program and will be located in Ithaca, NY, or New York, NY.



Cornell University

ignite
Fellow for New Ventures

About Cornell University

Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. The university has six [campuses](#), with the main campus in Ithaca, NY. Our inclusive community of scholars, students, and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery, and engagement.

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

We also recognize a lawful preference in employment practices for Native Americans living on or near Indian reservations.

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