



MEDIA RELEASE

Startup Catalyst announces new scholarships to fund a mission for 20 youths to Silicon Valley. Official announcement of the 20 participants is next week.

25 October 2016: Startup Catalyst is taking 20 tech-savvy youths on a fully-funded 10-day immersive mission to Silicon Valley in November, thanks to new funding partners.

Over 200 youths (between the ages of 18 and 29) have applied from across Australia for the 2016 program, with the lucky 20 selected participants to be announced publicly in Brisbane next week.

Each of the 20 participants receives a scholarship to attend the Silicon Valley mission, funded by mission partners including Technology One, the University of Sydney, Business Models Inc, the Government of South Australia, the QUT Business School, the University of Queensland, Uber, Data61, and McCullough Robertson.

Adrian Di Marco, founder and Executive Chairman of Technology One, said “as Australia’s largest enterprise software company, it’s important to us to engage with Australia’s youngest and brightest minds in STEM. We’ve partnered with Startup Catalyst to actively foster a diverse and vibrant IT industry, and create excitement around this exciting time in Australia’s economy.”

“These kids are the next generation of IT professionals and our future industry leaders. It’s exciting to consider their potential and the creative impact they can have on the future of IT” says Adrian.

Participants on the mission will visit the offices of global tech companies such as *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Google*, attend networking events with startup founders and student entrepreneurs, meet with fellow Australians who are running tech startups in the Valley, and take part in educational events to equip them with an understanding of what it takes to develop and launch a globally successful tech startup.

Associate Professor Ross Coleman, the University of Sydney’s Director of Graduate Research, said “the University of Sydney is proud to support two of our students, as the first NSW Startup Catalyst participants. They’re exceptional students, and I have no doubt they’ll make the most of this unique opportunity.”

“Supporting the development of entrepreneurial skills in our students is a key priority for the University, and this program offers an invaluable opportunity to learn from startups at the forefront of the technological, economic and cultural shift being

experienced around the world. I look forward to seeing how their ideas for entrepreneurial and technological solutions to the problems of the 21st century progress” he said.

Brisbane entrepreneur, investor, *Shark Tank* star and founder of Startup Catalyst, Steve Baxter, said the program will allow young entrepreneurs to see how startups operate in world-class environments.

“This is something we need to be doing to assist the cultural transformation of our economy to one that is fast paced, startup aware, and global first in its thinking,” he said.

“I want to help our entrepreneurs learn the street smarts of building a successful startup from the best the world has to offer – that way, we can accelerate the formation of some Queensland companies with the potential to make a real dent in the universe.”

Startup Catalyst also recently received funding under the Queensland Government’s Advance Queensland Global Partnership Awards Program (Outbound Insights), allowing it to expand its operations nationally, and to launch new missions for investors, corporates, and startups to new destinations, including London, Tel Aviv, Singapore and Shenzhen.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business Leanne Enoch said Startup Catalyst allows entrepreneurs to immerse themselves in an environment where scaling an idea to a global marketplace happens every day.

“Participants will experience the pace and pressure of life in these global hotspots and connect with some valuable networking contacts in these overseas centres of excellence.”, Ms Enoch said.

About Startup Catalyst

Startup Catalyst takes groups of youths, startups, investors, corporates, and innovation leaders to international startup hotspots including Silicon Valley, Europe, Israel, and Asia with the goal of transforming the startup and innovation landscape in Australia. Our goal is to assist in the cultural transformation of the Australian economy to one that is fast paced, startup aware, and “global first”.

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