Engaging innovative students

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MIT-industry alignments

MIT’s mission
- Education
- Research

Industry needs
- Hiring
- R&D
Modes of MIT-industry interaction

- Sponsored research (both directions)

Other educational and research collaborations
- Support for outreach activities, student clubs
- Mentoring undergrad and graduate students
- Undergraduate research support
- Roles in teaching MIT courses
- Sabbaticals and leaves for faculty
- Internships and recruiting for students
- Consulting by faculty members
- Professional education courses
- Employees enroll in MIT degree programs
- MIT advisory roles
- Employees with formal roles on MIT campus
- Collocating facilities with MIT campus
- Faculty chairs, grad fellowships, undergrad scholarships

A wealth of opportunities
Student pull

- Flexible, modular, multidisciplinary curricula
- Authentic practical experiences
- Leadership and professional experiences
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Global
- Online
Student innovators

MIT Student Submissions in $100K Competition by Year
Percent of MIT graduates joining start-ups

Graduation year

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Sandbox Innovation Fund

Will provide educational experiences, mentoring, and financial resources to MIT students. The objective is for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to be effective innovators. While the context will be a specific project or entrepreneurial venture, the primary focus is on developing people, not ideas and start-ups. Funding to discrete milestones will range from $1K to $25K.
How it will work

Student(s) with a project idea request funding

• Round 1 = $1K + mentoring + tailored educational content

• Can then propose to Funding Board drawn from contributors for $5K to $25K

• Funding to milestones + mentoring + tailored educational content

(Contributors may also share specific project requests/needsss for students to take up.)
Highlights

• Accessible to all 11,000 of our undergrad and grad students
  – Not picking winners, education for all who are interested

• Not (or not only) “Start-up U.”
  – Representing the breadth of pathways through which our students and alums have an impact on the world (big companies, small companies, start-ups, non-profits, national/international, government labs)
  – Developing people, not ideas/companies (but in the context of an innovative idea)
Seeking key industry partners

• Contributors, funding board members, mentors

Direct questions to:
• Ian Waitz, iaw@mit.edu (Faculty Director)
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This is just one exciting new opportunity.

Happy to discuss many other ways for engaging with students, and more effective alignment between HR and R&D objectives.

Questions?