INTELLIGENT INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DESIGN

Schulich's MBA Short Summer Program



PROGRAM FACT SHEET

MASTERING TECH & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DESIGN: TORONTO'S STRATEGIC APPROACH

Intelligent Innovation Ecosystem Design is a two-week intensive course that unlocks the strategies behind creating a thriving Tech & Innovation Ecosystem — leveraging the incredible story of Toronto's rapid rise to global prominence. Taught by Cherry Rose Tan, the mission of this course is to empower students with the skills and experiences to master the tech landscape and to bring systems thinking to their own organizations and communities. Toronto's entry and dominance in the Tech & Innovation space, paired with Schulich's global brand and track record, brings fresh and strategic insights for standing out and adding value in such a competitive industry.

The course is strategically positioned within Toronto's vibrant tech landscape, which boasts 24,000 technology companies and 289,000 technology workers. Toronto ranks as the third-largest technology hub in North America, providing an ideal backdrop for understanding innovation ecosystem dynamics.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Date: June 9 - 20, 2025
Location: Classes will be held at the Schulich School of Business Nadal Management Centre in downtown Toronto
Credits: 3.00 Schulich credits
Contact duration: 39 contact hours
Instructor: Cherry Rose Tan, Entrepreneur in Residence at Schulich School of Business

Objectives:

- Understand frameworks for sparking, scaling, and sustaining Tech & Innovation
- Analyze startup journeys across multiple verticals
- Gain skills to master the tech landscape and bring systems thinking to your own organizations and communities
- Develop critical thinking skills for ecosystem design
- Gain practical insights from Toronto's tech ecosystem

Unique Learning Experiences:

- Guest speakers from influential ecosystem design minds in Toronto
- Site visits in renowned tech companies and top tech hubs located at the heart of downtown Toronto
- Direct engagement with leading innovators and entrepreneurs
- Real-life application of ecosystem design principles
- Cultural immersion through authentic Canadian food tasting, sports tourism and engaging local activities

ELIGIBILITY

MBA or graduate level business students that meet the selection criteria for the exchange program. Please contact your Exchange Office for more information.

DEADLINE

Nomination deadline: March 1, 2025
Application deadline: March 10, 2025

HOW TO JOIN

Students must be nominated by one of our graduate partner schools. To be nominated by your school on exchange basis, please contact the International Office or Exchange Coordinator at your home university. If you attend a non-partner school, please contact us at exchange@schulich.yorku.ca.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominated students will receive a welcome email and link to an online application. The application requires the following documents:

- Photo
- Transcript including Master's courses
- Proof of English proficiency, if studying in a language other than English
- Resume or curriculum vitae

PROGRAM FEE

$ 705 CAD

PROGRAM FEE INCLUSIONS

- Course materials and readings
- Company visits and presentations
- Welcome lunch & farewell dinner
- Social and cultural excursions
- Sightseeing tours in Toronto
- Day trip to Niagara Falls
- Transportation to/from excursions and company visits where required

"I wanted to gain foundational knowledge about the startup ecosystem and how the different actors interact to create, build, and then scale innovative businesses. I wanted to have a fun and memorable experience in one of the most vibrant cities in the world, which was further enhanced by an amazing cohort from six out of seven continents! The diversity of the cohort was special because the group was small enough for everyone to speak which enhanced the learning experience within the classes. In my personal opinion, this is what you are looking for when you travel abroad for an immersive journey, and that was totally achieved."



Angel Roca, MBA Candidate '24
National University Singapore



"The site visits offered us the chance to observe and understand how theories and concepts learned in the classroom are applied in real business settings. This practical exposure helps bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application, making the learning experience more comprehensive and relevant."



Xuyu Wang, MBA Candidate '25
Nanyang Business School



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Startup Ecosystems: Tech and Innovation

Mastering the Innovation Flywheel: Understand the components behind a thriving ecosystem and how these come together to move tech and innovation forward

The Inner Workings of Incubators and Accelerators: Discover the importance of incubators and accelerators, and their purposeful design in seeding new ideas

The Growing Hunger for Venture Capital: Explore the all-time high of venture capital, and the historical context behind this asset class in innovation

The Strategic Rise of Corporate Innovation: Gain a practical understanding of how corporations are investing into innovation, both in-house & in partnership

The Pivotal Role of Governmental Organizations: Learn the underutilized and massive resources of government, and how they are incentivized to scale startups

The Talent Advantage of Diversity and Inclusion: Understanding why diversity and inclusion is the leading strategy for building intentional and vibrant ecosystems



For more information, please email exchange@schulich.yorku.ca or scan the QR code › › ›

SAMPLE ITINERARY

WEEK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	Arrival & Welcome Orientation	Lecture Session: Innovating with Universities and Colleges	Lecture Session: The Role of Incubators and Accelerators	Lecture Session: The Rise of Corporate Innovation	Lecture Session: Working with Service Providers	Day Trip to Niagara Falls & Niagara on the Lake
Afternoon	Welcome Lunch	Lunch break	Free Time	Lunch break	Free Time	
	Lecture Session: Understanding the Innovation Flywheel	Site Visit		Site Visit		
	Free Time	Free Time		Free Time		Free Time
Evening	Harbour Tour					
	Welcome Social		Blue Jays Baseball Game			

WEEK 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Lecture Session: Strategizing for Venture Capital	Lecture Session: Leveraging Governmental Support	Lecture Session: Why Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Matter	Lecture Session: Integrating Mental Health and Resilience	Lecture Session: Consulting Presentations
Afternoon	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
	Walking Food Tour	Site Visit			
Evening		Free Time		Schulich Start-Up Night	Farewell Dinner at CN Tower

Academic sessions | Social and cultural activities

Note: Schedule of lecture sessions, site visits, and variety of cultural activities may be subject to change.

