

MIT GSL Uganda

Partnership between MIT and Makerere University

Summer 2019 - Kampala, Uganda

Global Startup Labs Overview

GSL is designed to teach students the skills necessary for starting a mobile tech startup. This is not a typical class - it's an intensive boot-camp where students will work in teams to develop and ultimately launch a mobile-app startup business. The course ends with a pitch day - when your team will pitch your startup and prototype to potential investors. The expectation is that you and your team will continue developing your startup idea after this course ends.

Global Startup Labs History

GSL is a program founded by MIT to cultivate young technology entrepreneurs all over the world. We develop curriculum materials, software technologies, platforms, and networks that enable students to innovate in the area of information and communication technologies. The course is offered at no cost to students.

Since 2000, MIT Global Startup Labs has sent over 150 MIT instructors to teach over 2400 students in 62 programs in 17 countries, resulting in the creation of businesses and the addition of course offerings at our partner universities. Over 75% of the participants continue their startups after the program with over 30 startups still in operation since inception.

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Class Curriculum Overview

Content

The curriculum is modeled after many incubator courses and previous GSL courses at MIT, and it includes three major areas, which are the key ingredients to launching a successful agrotech venture:

1. Entrepreneurship & Business Skills
2. Technical Skills
3. Soft Skills (Communication, Leadership, Teamwork, etc.)

Startup Teams

Students will be grouped into teams of 3-5 students, and these teams will work throughout the course to form and launch their agrotech startup. We will often dedicate time during class to group work sessions and group meetings with the instructors. During the course, you will work as a team to develop a startup business idea for a web application or mobile application for the agricultural sector. You will build a prototype of the app. You will pitch and demo this idea during the culminating event of the course - pitch day. Winning teams may receive prizes and/or funding to move forward with their business plan.

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GSL Uganda 2019 - Your Instructors

This is the first time GSL is being offered in Uganda and we're excited to be here! We are working in partnership with Makerere University to offer this course this year.

This course will be taught by MIT graduate and undergraduate students. MIT professors will not be involved in the instruction of this course.

Jezze Jao

Entrepreneurship Lead

Jezze is a recent MBA graduate at MIT. Prior to business school, Jezze has strategy and management consulting experience across the Middle East, South East Asia, and North America. An advocate for equal access to education, she has also co-founded a social enterprise in the Philippines focused on providing long-term scholarship opportunities to promising underprivileged children. She enjoys exploring new places, hiking, and reading.

Keita Zenki

Entrepreneurship Lead

Keita is a 1st year MBA student at MIT. His prior career is banking and public sector in which he was involved in finance projects to large-scale power infrastructure around the world. Shifting from "due-diligence" or "G-to-G negotiation", at MIT he is focused on more localized and hands-on approach in business development with a passion to interact with people and cultivate entrepreneurial mindset. He enjoys traveling and hiking, and loves music and food of any kind.

Eleanor Wintersteen

Entrepreneurship Assistant

Eleanor is a recent graduate in Biology at MIT. She enjoys learning new things, and is interested in agriculture and teaching. She has extensive experience in public speaking and presenting and is excited to see students develop their skills in this course. Outside of school, Eleanor enjoys hiking, reading, and playing board games.

Emily Tang

Technical Lead

Emily is a recent graduate in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT. She has also spent a lot of time doing public speaking and student government and enjoys helping people

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develop their voices as leaders. She enjoys reading and writing in her spare time, as well as eating and cooking new food.

Jeremy Cowham

Technical Lead

Jeremy is a Computer Science and Engineering student entering his fourth undergraduate year at MIT. In addition to his studies, he plays on the varsity soccer team, leads the global development pillar of a student business association, and acts in MIT's premier improv comedy troupe.