

Accelerators Versus Incubators

Your idea for your startup has promise. The startup you founded needs to scale. Your team is struggling with landing investment. Now is the time you seek out a program to meet your needs. But is it an accelerator or an incubator? And how do you get into those programs? GIST's team of experts shares their insights with you about how to find and succeed in the right program for your startup.

The principles are explored further in our [Startup Trainings](#), [Virtual Accelerator](#), and [Panel Discussions](#).



Insights from GIST Instructors & Partners

“It’s not just about the program, it’s not just about the learning. It’s actually learning by doing. So if there are more opportunities...to be pushed forward and pushed over their comfort zone... that’s the right type of program I’d advise startups to enroll in.”

Igor Madzov
Co-Founder of Startup Macedonia
Excerpt from: Innovation Talk - Ecosystem Building
Part 2



Accelerators versus Incubators

Accelerators and incubators provide support to different stages of companies.

An incubator is generally for a very early stage company, while an accelerator pushes forward a company that has already been operating. Make sure you understand your startup's needs before applying to an incubator or accelerator.

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Get your startup ready to apply to an accelerator.

The right accelerator can provide you with important networking, mentorship, and validation to help your grow and get you ready for investors.

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Incubators have a unique value that can benefit your startup but you have to have the right kind of startup.

Understand what kind of startup needs and thrives in an incubator. Do you need a physical office space and shared equipment? Are you looking for a great to network?

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Accelerators and incubators are a part of a thriving startup ecosystem.

What are accelerators and incubators actually looking for when they evaluate your startup? Understand their needs in order to give your startup the best chance for success in their programs.

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Additional Resources

For additional insights into accelerators and incubators visit our GIST TechConnect panels, our GIST Guru interviews and GIST Innovation Talks podcasts:



[Incubator or Accelerator?](#)



[Ecosystem Building P2](#)