

Unlock the potential of venture capital investing ✨

VC Catalyst is an immersive 10-day program designed to give investor-ready individuals the knowledge, skills and networks to invest in Australia's next wave of groundbreaking businesses and ideas.

This course is one of a kind in Australia, delivered by Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship and sponsored by LaunchVic, the Victorian Government's startup agency.

Participants engage with a curated cohort of diverse participants while learning from expert practitioners, academics and leaders in venture capital investment.

You will put theory into practice from day one. Our immersive workshops and Demo Day give you the chance to apply your learnings and forge significant investor networks.

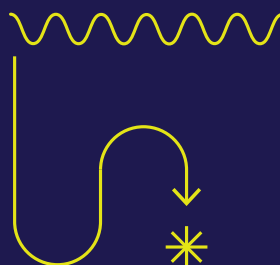
Who is it for?

VC Catalyst has been created for active investors with a demonstrated history of investment. We are primarily seeking participants with the capacity to invest and who possess the ability to make a sizeable impact on our startup ecosystems. Past participants have included family office investment managers, corporate venturing team members, emerging and future venture fund managers and current and potential angel investors.





Introducing the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship



Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship is a leading centre for entrepreneurial training based at Ormond College, the University of Melbourne. We deliver immersive education programs to accelerate learning, creation and connection.

We are a place for people with bold ideas; curious and ambitious doers who want to build scalable and impactful solutions to real world problems. Our range of programs includes the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Master of Entrepreneurship, teacher education program UpSchool and custom masterclasses.

Visit us online for more info:
wadeinstitute.org.au



The Benefits

VC Catalyst has been carefully designed to equip you with the skills, strategies and confidence to build high-yield portfolios and new connections for future deal flow.



Discover how to **manage a portfolio** of investments



Learn the **playbook** for angel and venture capital investing from **world-renowned investors and academics**



Gain **insights and tools** to focus investment in your own interest areas



Understand how to **build deal flow** through selection, evaluation and follow-on analysis using your own data-backed investment thesis and philosophy



Explore the importance of stage-appropriate **due diligence** in the investment process



Network with some of the region's most **successful investors** and entrepreneurs, alongside angels and venture capitalists from around the world



Stay connected to participants and speakers with **exclusive alumni events**



Enjoy **support from Wade Institute** through lifelong networks and ongoing professional development

VC Catalyst includes an ongoing program of mentoring and alumni events. Examples include:



Annual alumni networking dinner with high profile speakers



Victorian Startup Gala



Exclusive networking events

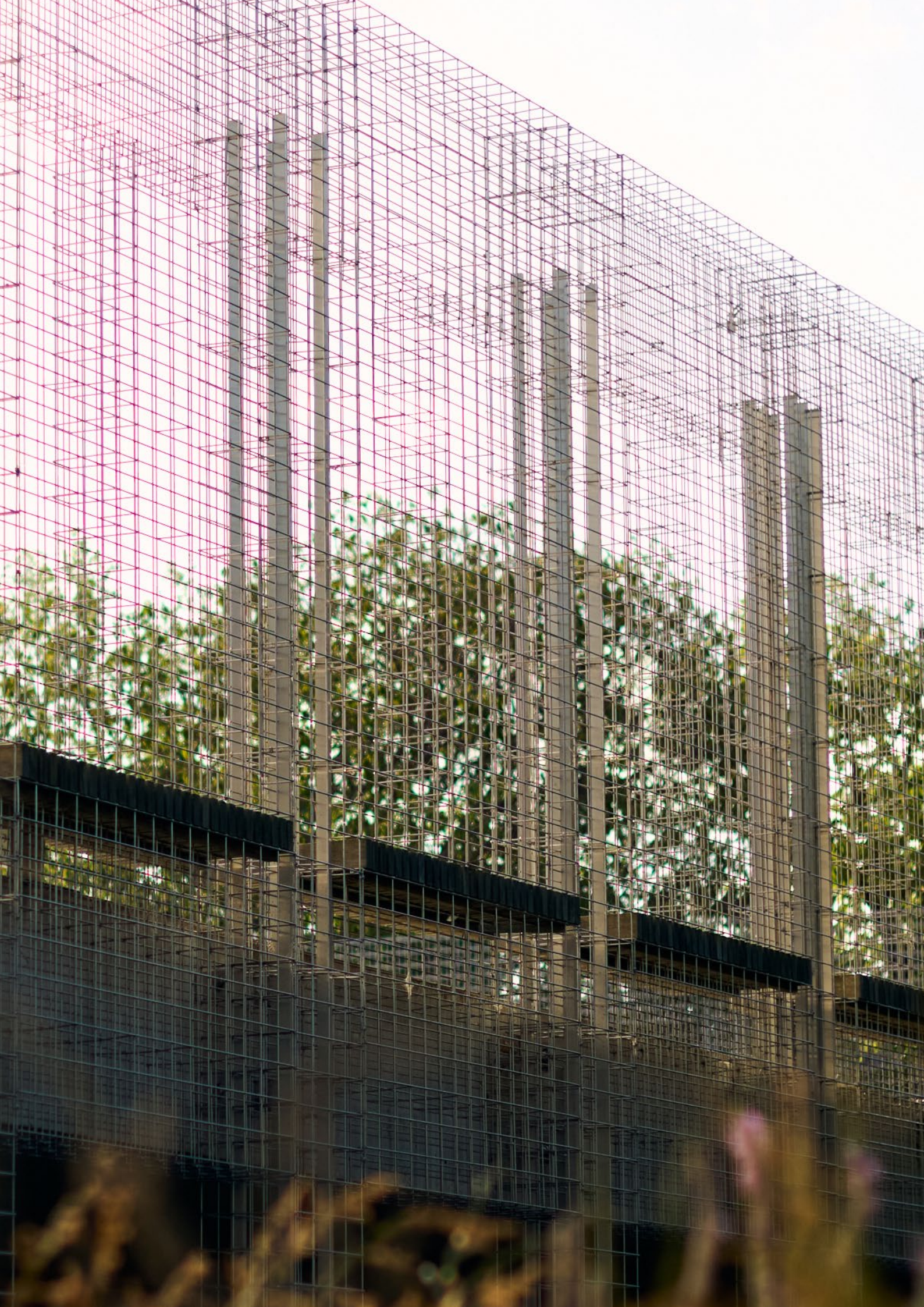


Masterclasses with leading global VCs



Judy, previously CEO at StartupVic, is now Group CEO at Euphemia, a family office founded by Up Bank's Dom Pym. Euphemia invests in startups, venture capital funds, and various asset classes, with a strong focus on fintech, climate tech, women-led ventures, and diverse founders. Judy valued VC Catalyst as a "choose your own adventure course – you can lean in and out based on your interest, capability and capacity...I use my learnings every day in my role at Euphemia."

Judy Anderson-Firth, 2022 alumna



Speakers



and

mentors



Lauren Capelin

Business Development Manager,
AWS Startups

Lead Facilitator

Lauren is a community strategist and disruptive innovation expert, specialising in generative AI, web3, fintech, the sharing economy, and early-stage investing. As VC Business Development Manager for ANZ at AWS Startups, she focuses on fostering connections with emerging founders and supporting startups to scale globally. Previously, Lauren was Principal at Startmate, where she led founder scouting, investment programs, and media, and as Partner of Platform at Reinventure Fund, she shaped Australia's fintech ecosystem.



Dan Madhavan

Partner,
Ecotone Partners

Lead Facilitator

Dan is a passionate advocate for using business and finance to create a sustainable and equitable future. As a founding partner at Ecotone Partners, he brings extensive experience in impact investing, having previously served as CEO of Impact Investment Group (IIG), one of Australia's largest impact fund managers. Prior to this, Dan was the inaugural CEO of Impact Investing Australia, where he helped shape Australia's contribution to the Global Steering Group on Impact Investing. With a 13-year career at JBWere and Goldman Sachs JBWere in various senior roles, including COO and Acting CEO, Dan combines financial expertise with a commitment to positive social and environmental impact.

Speakers



and

mentors



Pedram Mokrian

Adjunct Professor,
Stanford University

International Guest Expert

A founding faculty member of Stanford's VC Unlocked program, former Principal at Mayfield Fund and instructor at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, Pedram brings extensive VC knowledge and experience to Wade Institute. Whether early-stage startups, Fortune 50 companies or the World Bank, Pedram shares his experience from working with hundreds of business leaders and entrepreneurs across five continents.



Rachael Neumann

Founding Partner,
Flying Fox Ventures

Founding Facilitator

Guest Speaker

Rachael plays many roles supporting the #startupaus ecosystem. She is a former Chair of the Board for StartupAus, Partner in Startmate and was a founding Board member of LaunchVic. In her previous role as Head of Startups ANZ at Amazon Web Services, she was charged with growing-out the market, driving quantity and quality of startups in ANZ. Additionally, Rachael is a strategic advisor and investor to a number of founders and their early-stage companies. She has been sharing her passion for early stage investing through her role as Lead Facilitator for VC Catalyst and now, as Founding Partner of Flying Fox Ventures.



Colin McLeod

Professor and Executive Director,
Melbourne Entrepreneurial Centre

Founding Facilitator

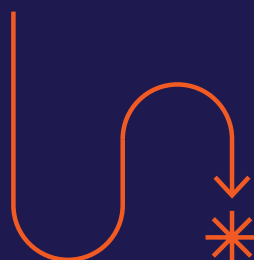
Guest Speaker

Colin is a Professor at the Melbourne Business School and was Academic Director of the Master of Entrepreneurship from 2015-18. He is currently a Director/Investor/Co-founder of six early stage companies in retail technology, online training, wireless technology, employee management, aged care and wearable biotechnology and co-created the VC Catalyst curriculum with Rachael Neumann.



Some of our speakers

VC Catalyst is delivered by distinguished practitioners and experts from around the world. From Silicon Valley to Asia and Australia, our thought leaders bring wide-ranging experience to workshops and masterclasses. Additionally, speakers are made available for the program's six months of one-on-one mentoring.



Matt Allen

CEO,
Tractor Ventures

Gabrielle Munzer

Partner,
Main Sequence Ventures

Nick Crocker

General Partner,
Blackbird Ventures

Paul Naphtali

Co-founder and
Managing Partner,
Rampersand

Nisha Dua

Co-Founder and
Partner, BBG Ventures

Rayn Ong

Partner,
ArchAngel

Kylie Frazer

Co-Founder and
Partner, Flying Fox
Ventures

Hugh Stephens

VC Partner,
Galileo

Jules Miller

Partner,
Mindset Ventures

Rachel Yang

Partner,
Giant Leap

Impact *

You'll join a small, curated cohort with experience across venture capital investing and entrepreneurship. The cohort is selected to ensure rich and diverse peer-to-peer learning.

Cohort snapshot

57%

female

43%

male

13

industries

represented

\$117m+

combined investment

capability



Investor type

Angel investors, investment managers, family office investment managers, entrepreneurs, corporate investors, fund managers

Investment areas

Biotech, SaaS, fintech, property, digital and marketing, education, medical





“I think investing into early stage startups requires a leap of faith. And I think what I learned about myself [from VC Catalyst] is that I’m ready to take that leap. I’m quite comfortable with that risk level.”

Elina Wilson, 2019 alumna



Alumni

Our dynamic, diverse alumni community includes VCs, angels, family office execs, and founder-investors. They're supportive, deeply engaged, and generous with their knowledge: opening doors, sharing insights, and shaping the future of VC.

Meet just a few of them:

Scott Thomson



SCRIPTID

Scott has a background in digital strategy and transformation and worked at Google from 2015 through 2024, including as Head of Innovation for Customer Engineering. Now CTO at SCRIPTID, he is also an active angel investor, passionate about working with and helping startups throughout Australia and beyond.



Frances Goh

OneRoof

Frances is an innovation consultant, brand strategist, and champion of women-led startups. As Head of Community and Growth at One Roof, she fosters connection, accountability, and business growth. With expertise in finance, operations, and market research, she helps organisations drive innovation, enhance customer experiences, and create lasting impact.





Usman Iftikhar

Catalysr



Usman is CEO of Catalysr, a pre-accelerator committed to empowering migrant and refugee startup founders to start their own businesses and create their own futures. For his work advocating for social change, Usman was named 2018 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year.



Manon Dennison

Gandel Invest

Manon is an Investment Manager at Gandel Invest, a prominent family office. Transitioning from a Big 4 accounting background, she moved from advisory to investing in 2022. Driven by the desire to support businesses beyond transactions, she aims to add value throughout their growth journey. At Gandel Invest, Manon is dedicated to building lasting partnerships and contributing to the success of businesses over the long term.





Dave Porter

Wolf Ventures



Dave is Managing Partner at Wolf Ventures, investing in emerging technologies across climate, health, and frontier tech. He began his career as an accountant at Arthur Andersen and has extensive experience providing providing global business advisory and investment services, including roles as a Non-Executive Director.



Kathleen Lucere, PHD

Even Capital

Kathleen is an Investment Associate at Even Capital in New Zealand, with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry focused on cancer drug development. Her venture capital journey began with Amaroq Therapeutics, a biotech startup spun out of her research, and an internship at Matū. She applies her scientific expertise and strategic insights to strengthen Even Capital's processes and investment approach.



Kate Herbert



Startmate

Kate is an Investment Associate at Startmate, leading the First Believers program, a community of angel investors supporting emerging founders. With a background in corporate strategy at ANZ and Australia Post, she founded Waggly, later acquired by Mad Paws. She focuses on supporting female founders and impactful solutions for children’s futures, applying her expertise to nurture early-stage startups.



Vince Lebon

Rollei Nation

Founder of Rollie Nation, Vince expanded his innovative footwear brand to 11 countries and over 200 Australian stores in 12 years. With experience collaborating with brands like Adidas and Nike, Vince combines design expertise with strategic investment insights. His investments focus on AI, productivity tools, and human-centric designed to empower the startup community.



The

Program



VC Catalyst is a multi-part program designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the venture investment space.

SPRINT 1

Day →

1

Scene – Venture Capital 101

Day 1 will provide you with the necessary context and foundation for the development of your own investment thesis, which you will present to the class at the conclusion of the program.

Day →

3

Australian VC Landscape

Day 3 will break down the mechanics of a venture deal and explore various tactics used in the deal making process.

Day →

5

Pipeline Management

On Day 5 you will be walked through the process of assessing prospective deals, including the steps involved in attracting, evaluating and managing opportunities.

Day →

2

The VC Ecosystem – Trends and Navigating the Ecosystem

Day 2 will set the scene for venture capital, exploring its recent history, where we're at now, and what's next for this asset class, while considering the similarities and differences between different regions.

Day →

4

Founders: Attracting, Finding, & Evaluating Opportunities

Day 4 of the program will prepare you for evaluating and assessing the quality of founders and how to manage their expectations and relationships.

Demo

Day

In the week between program sprints, you will attend a specially curated Demo Day simulation where alumni of the program will pitch to you as potential investors. This part of the program will enable you to put your learnings into action and encourage you to actively engage with founders and collaborate and learn from your peers.



10-day online intensive delivered in two sprints, each across 5 half days



Demo Day



Three months of mentoring



Ongoing professional development and events

SPRINT 2

Day → 6

Decision Making

Day 6 is about filtering and assessing pitch decks and how our underlying biases and assumptions can influence our decision making.

Day → 7

Negotiating a Venture Deal

Day 7 is about how to negotiate and close a venture deal. It will break down the mechanics of a venture deal and explore various tactics used in the deal making process.

Day → 8

Working with Portfolio Companies

Day 8 attends to the relationships and best practice of angel investing from detailing your thought process for tracking startups, to working through the details of a term sheet and supporting your investments.

Day → 9

Accounting, Fundraising, and Peeking into Portfolios

Day 9 takes you another step deeper and you walk through equity dilutions and power law returns. A panel of investors will then provide a "peek" into their personal portfolios, to provide insight into the real returns from early stage startup investing.

Day → 10

Looking Back / Looking Forward

Day 10 zooms out on all you have learned throughout the program and consolidates the lessons in the context of your investment theses.

Reunion Session

Investment Theses Review and Feedback

One week after the end of the program intensive, you'll reconvene to review and receive expert and peer-to-peer feedback on your investment thesis.

Admission

Applications

Applications can be submitted online and will be accepted on a rolling basis. Participants will be selected on their suitability for the program.

Scholarships

Diversity scholarships are available for eligible applicants covering the majority of the cost of tuition. Applications can be made during the application process.

Program delivery

10-day online intensive delivered in two sprints, each across 5 half days, Demo Day, post program mentoring, and ongoing development and events.

Delivered by

Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship

Ormond College
49 College Crescent
Parkville, Victoria, 3052





What are the class sizes?

Our carefully curated cohort ranges from 25 to 30 participants. Class sizes have been kept deliberately small to facilitate optimal discussion and collaboration.



Who can apply?

We welcome applications from Australian and international residents. Investor-ready individuals may include family office investment managers, corporate venturing team members, emerging and future venture fund managers and current and potential angel investors.



How will you select the participants?

Participants will be selected on their suitability for the program and to create a diverse cohort of participants. You will be notified of your application outcome shortly after submission.



I'll be unable to attend one of the days/sessions, how will I make this up?

In-depth class materials will be provided where a participant is unable to attend a session. However, exposure and interaction with faculty and fellow participants is an important component of this program, so it is strongly recommended that you try and attend all sessions. Please advise our program manager of any absences as early as possible to ensure we can accommodate you.

Apply



now



Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship

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