

# Looking for investment to grow your business idea?

The **Y Accelerator 2019/20** is open for applications until 30th August 2019

## Apply now!



# What's on offer?

The Y Accelerator is seeking ten candidates, teams or early stage businesses to participate in the 2019/20 programme. On offer is an amazing opportunity to benefit free of charge from three months' intensive development support and a chance to pitch to a panel of investors to include UK Steel Enterprise.

Running from October 2019 to January 2020, the programme is built around modern business modelling techniques, with access to expert advice, mentors, specialist workshops, market research and tailored one-to-one support.

The programme concludes with an investor pitch event providing a unique opportunity to pitch your new business to a range of investors.

And, there's a **£1k prize** from UK Steel Enterprise up for grabs for the best pitch.





## Who should apply?

**If you have an innovative idea and the aspiration and drive to build a high-growth, scalable new business from the Sheffield City Region, this programme is for you.**

Applications are invited from individuals, teams or companies with a new or early stage business idea with national or international potential.

Employed, unemployed, student or postgraduate, it doesn't matter. It's your idea, attitude and commitment to realising your new business that counts.

If you are based outside the Sheffield City Region then you can still apply but you would be expected to work from this area if successful in your application. All industry sectors will be considered and applications are especially encouraged in the manufacturing and automation sectors.

# What to expect?

**During the fast-paced 12 week programme you will aim to validate concepts, build a strong customer proposition and financial model and learn how to effectively communicate the value in your business to customers and investors.**

The programme is delivered through one-to-one and group sessions, tailored to meet the needs of every candidate. The Y Accelerator network of advisors, mentors and businesses is there to provide insight from a wide pool of expertise to help you navigate towards your goals.

You won't write a tedious business plan. We assist you in consolidating thoughts, mapping out ideas and focusing on what's important, helping you make informed decisions to push your business forward.

The programme operates on a part-time basis to make it accessible to as many entrepreneurs as possible. You can expect around one half day workshop per week along side a programme of regular one-to-one meetings. You'll work towards developing a great sales and investment pitch to present at the concluding pitch event.



*The Y-Accelerator is an excellent platform to accelerate your business. The mentoring and camaraderie created an inspiring space and framework to brainstorm, set goals, learn and achieve. The sessions helped spur better commercial ideas for me and my product - identifying vulnerabilities and developing strengths in surprising ways. I levelled up as an entrepreneur and made some valuable long-term connections.*



Lee Price, Zelter founder and winner of the 2018/19 Y Accelerator pitch event



## Who's involved?

**Y Accelerator's aim is to create new growth businesses for the economic benefit of the region. The project is part of the Sheffield City Region Growth Hub and support is provided free of charge.**

The experienced Y Accelerator delivery team are part of Rotherham's well established network of business incubators, at the forefront of adopting new business modelling techniques to support entrepreneurs. Gordon Macrae from Gripple Ltd. acts as entrepreneur in residence, providing valuable real-world insight for innovative start-up businesses. The team have a strong track record of assisting local and international start-ups.

The Y Accelerator is a partnership between public and private sector organisations, helping create the businesses of the future.

UK Steel Enterprise is again supporting the programme by offering a £1k prize for the best pitch.

# How do I apply?

**The Y Accelerator 2019/20 is inviting applications until 30th August 2019 through the Sheffield City Region Growth Hub portal.**

A selection panel will choose the ten most promising business ideas for the programme. We'll first meet successful applicants in September, with the programme starting October 2019.

**[www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/y-accelerator](http://www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk/y-accelerator)**

**For more information, please contact us:**

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