DISTANCE LAB PILOT: REMOTE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS FULFILMENT

MS for Startups Founders Hub

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1. MS for Startups Founders Hub

1.1. General information about the program

1.1.1. Purpose and objectives for remote work

Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub is a digital platform that provides tailored resources, support and benefits to assist new businesses at any digital maturity level, with no funding requirements. The program is for Startups in any business field that plan to incorporate some digital tools as a part of their business processes.

Businesses that are eligible to join the Hub receive up to $150,000 worth of MS Azure credits, along with access to MS development and productivity tools and services such as Open AI, Github, Studios, Dynamics 365 and other third-party offers. Besides, companies can receive mentorship and technical guidance from the MS expert network.

In upcoming chapters, you will find detailed information about each product and service offered by MS for Startups Founders Hub.

1.1.2 Benefits for applicants doing business remotely

- Incorporate AI into your product or service using OpenAI products such as Chat-GPT4, DALL-E and others.
- Use one integrated environment, MS Azure, to store your company data and explore the selection of over 200 cloud computing solutions to various business needs.
- Collaborate with colleagues in IT product and service development projects and use the wide range of IT solution libraries for your benefit in GitHub enterprise.
- Develop, test, debug, and deploy your software and programs in Visual Studio Enterprise with MS AI features, one of the most comprehensive Integrated Development Environments for .NET and C++ developers.
- Empower everyone in your organisation to develop solutions with low-code tools such as interactive dashboards with Key Performance Indicators or automate processes using Power Automate.
- Manage business operations by integrating Enterprise Resource Planning, Customer Relationship Management and other applications offered by MS Dynamics 365.
- Enhance productivity and collaboration by using communication tools such as MS Teams or Skype, and by using everyday common tools such as MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint.

For the overview of the benefits of MS for Startups Founders Hub, please, see the table below.

Support and benefits from Microsoft family of products and services				
Benefit	**Level 1: Ideate**	**Level 2: Develop**	**Level 3: Grow**	**Level 4: Scale**
Azure credits	$1k/1 year	$5k/ 1 year (Additional $4k +1 year for those who go from level to level 2)	$25k/ 1 year (Additional $20k + 1 year for those who go from level 2 to level 3)	$150 k/ 2 years (when entering at L4)(Additional 125k + 1 year for those who go from level 3 o level 4)
Azure Standard Support	Access to 24/7 Azure Global Support			
MS 365 Business Standard	10 seats / 1 year			
GitHub Enterprise	20 seats / 1 year			
PowerBI Pro	10 seats / 1 year			
Visual Studio Enterprise	5 seats, until the time in Founders Hub ends			
Visual Studio Code	Free download			

Trusted third-party offers from MS for Startup Funders Hub	
Developer Tools and Prototyping	
OpenAI	Free access to OpenAI team. $2,500 worth of OpenAI credits
Bubble	$3,000 in credits
CodeSee	3 months free subscription, additional 25% discount for next 3 months
Massdriver	Unlimited seats for 1 year ($20,000 value)
MongoDB	Up to $5,000 credits / 1 year
Fundraising and Investment Readiness	
Swoop	50% discount on Swoop's Fundraising Package (1 year at a value of $1,250)
E.B. Howard Consulting	60% discount on full EBHC Funding Menu service (1 year at a value of $3,300)
Forecastr	30% discount on Forcastr Launch Plan (1 year at a value of $2,800)
WE.VESTR	Free 1 year subscription for Startups of less than 30 Stakeholders. Startups with over 30 stakeholders receive a 70% discount for the first year.
Yoodli	Free 3-month subscription (valued at $100)
Ansarada	Free 1 year access to Ansarad's board portal and curated startup deal room
Sales, Marketing and Customer Management	
LinkedIn	$1,000 in LinkedIn ads credits. For Qualified members 75% off 4-month Recruiter Lite, Sales Navigator Core, and LinkedIn Premium Business subscriptions

[Close](#)	1-month free, then 12 months 80% discount on any Close subscription plan
Business Tools	
[Byteboard](#)	55% discount on 1-year subscription (valued at $6,950)
[Toptal](#)	15% discount on global freelance services up to %25,000, valued at $4,500 for 12 months
[Stripe](#)	$25,000 in fee-free payment processing. 50% discount on incorporation fee worth $250.
[Mercury](#)	$750 cash when you deposit $50,000 within 90 days of approval. Free checking and savings accounts, ACH transfers, domestic and international wires, and more (up to $30,000 in value).
[Miro](#)	Access to Miro Team offer or Growth offer

1.1.3. Application process

To join MS for Startups Founders Hub, all applicants have to meet the [selection criteria](#):

- Your startup must be engaged in the development of a software-based product or service that will be a core part of your current or intended business - this software must be owned, not licensed by another party.
- Your startup has received fewer than $10,000 in free Azure credits.
- Your headquarters is in one of the countries covered by Azure.
- Your startup has not gone through a Series D or later funding round.
- Your startup must be privately held.
- Your startup must be a for-profit business.
- Your startup is not an educational institution, government entity, personal blog, dev shop, consultancy, agency, bitcoin, or cryptomining company.

To apply for the Hub, you first need to have a LinkedIn account which you can sign up for [here](#). If you have linked in your profile, then the sign-up for the Founders Hub for startup can be done [here](#).
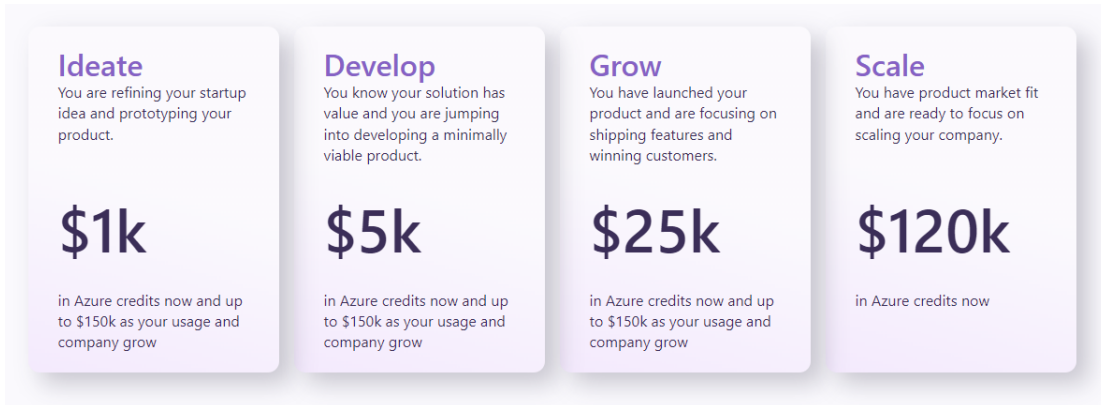
After application, it takes up to 5 working days to receive acceptance or non-acceptance for the Hub.

In case of admission to the MS for Startups Founders Hub, you can select one of the four categories- Ideate, Develop, Grow, or Scale (see picture below).

For a detailed view of the application process and Hubs portal, please, see this [YouTube video](#).

With the platform, startups can build their businesses at their own pace with up to $150,000 of Microsoft Azure. As usage increases, founders can unlock additional credits over time. For instance, if a founder is in the "Ideate" stage and is developing a prototype we will provide $1,000 for one year. If the startup utilises those credits in a few months, they can request more from within the platform and we will move them up to the "Develop" stage at $5,000 for one year.[1]

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[1] https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2022/03/08/microsoft-for-startups-founders-hub-now-open-to-all-no-funding-needed/

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RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES
Distance LAB

Ideate

You are refining your startup idea and prototyping your product.

$1k

in Azure credits now and up to $150k as your usage and company grow

Develop

You know your solution has value and you are jumping into developing a minimally viable product.

$5k

in Azure credits now and up to $150k as your usage and company grow

Grow

You have launched your product and are focusing on shipping features and winning customers.

$25k

in Azure credits now and up to $150k as your usage and company grow

Scale

You have product market fit and are ready to focus on scaling your company.

$120k

in Azure credits now

For more information about the program, application process, and benefits go to the MS for Startups Support Center

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