

The Ion Academic Network and Student Ambassador Program

The Ion anchors, activates and accelerates the innovation ecosystem through partnerships, pathways, and programs that create opportunities to advance and sustain resilient economic growth. A big part of what makes this possible at The Ion is The Ion Academic Network (IAN). Our goal for The IAN is to create opportunities for the students, faculty, and researchers to cultivate connections between academic institutions, corporate innovators, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and community leaders.

The IAN was created at The Ion to allow for a centralized location where the Houston Area's two and four-year academic institutions work together to support entrepreneurship and build a more innovative future workforce for our region. So, who exactly is part of The Ion Academic Network? We are thrilled to have some of Houston's two-and-four year finest academic institutions as part of our inner circle.

- Houston Baptist University
- Houston Community College
- Lone Star College
- Rice University
- San Jacinto College
- South Texas College of Law
- Texas Southern University
- The University of Houston
- The University of Houston - Downtown
- The University of St. Thomas

These academic institutions support us in this mission to accelerate career growth and expand opportunities for Houston's workforce. The IAN exposes and immerses communities, the faculty, the staff, and the students (undergraduate and graduate students) from the affiliated educational institutions to the innovation ecosystem in Houston. Members have access to collaborative events and programming through this network, such as networking, lecture series, hackathons, career fairs, pitch events, and more at The Ion. Students involved with The Ion through our academic partners will have access to our programs, including internship opportunities through our partnership with [Ampersand Professionals](#). This career-accelerating organization helps individuals gain entry-level job skills and put that education to use immediately through a guaranteed remote internship and a dedicated mentor every step of the way.

In addition, The Ion Academic Network Student Ambassador Program that we are launching on March 7 is a six-month-long opportunity for students 18+ to work alongside The Ion team and fellow students from institutions of The IAN to create and strengthen academic programming for higher education. Monthly meetings will be held to discuss upcoming programming, generate ideas for new programming, and ideate ways to increase student engagement across all academic institutions in the Houston region. There are one to two positions from each campus

available for this Ambassador Program for students actively enrolled in one of our academic partners. If you want to dive into Houston's innovation ecosystem, we encourage you to apply to be our next Student Ambassador at The Ion! Apply [here](#).