A nanotechnology device designed to detect bacteria and pathogens in food and water was developed by Shirley Tang, a professor of chemistry in Waterloo’s Faculty of Science.
There’s no one-size-fits-all definition of an entrepreneur. That’s why Waterloo offers a full spectrum of support, from the early stages of inspiration and discovery, to the incubation and acceleration of commercial and social ventures.

**Waterloo entrepreneurs look at the world differently** — as problems to be solved, ideas to be realized and opportunities to create meaningful change. As founders, employees, researchers or community leaders, their passion for innovation drives economic, social and technological change.
entrepreneurial ecosystem

Conrad Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology Centre

An academic hub for entrepreneurship, the Conrad Centre develops entrepreneurial leaders through dedicated undergraduate courses, options and minors, its unique Enterprise Co-op program and its flagship Master of Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology (MBET) degree.

31% of MBET graduates start a business one month after graduation compared to 7% of MBA grads from the Top 7 elite American schools

Engineering Innovation

With more than 600 companies founded by students, faculty and alumni, Waterloo’s Faculty of Engineering is ground zero for entrepreneurs. Fast-moving co-op culture enables students to quickly adapt, while identifying and solving challenges facing our world. Enhanced experiential learning opportunities including collaborative student teams and Capstone Design projects, combined with an intensive curriculum, ensure that Waterloo engineers are uniquely qualified to embrace risk and thrive as entrepreneurs.

635 global companies have Waterloo Engineering students, faculty, staff or alumni as founders
Velocity

From idea to product development to commercialization, Velocity provides the knowledge, tools, space and network that startups and entrepreneurs need for success. Programs and supports include the largest free startup incubator in North America, a residence for entrepreneurs, science lab, workshops, workspaces, mentorship programs and more. Velocity does not charge fees or take equity from startups that participate in its programs.

» Velocity Garage is the **largest free startup incubator** in North America

» **Velocity companies** have a **four-year survival rate of 66%**, compared with the U.S. average of 48% (Kauffman Foundation)

St. Paul’s GreenHouse

Based at St. Paul’s University College at the University of Waterloo, GreenHouse is Canada’s only live-in social impact incubator focused on social innovation and entrepreneurship. GreenHouse startups apply innovative approaches to pressing societal problems to create economic growth and improve the human condition.

» New GreenHouse incubation, community, and live-in space to open at St. Paul’s in 2017

» **3/5** of GreenHouse startup founders are women
Waterloo Commercialization Office (WatCo)

WatCo helps researchers commercialize innovations by developing startups or licensing technology to existing companies. Services include intellectual property (IP) management, commercialization support and access to funding programs.

» $2.4M in AC JumpStart funding over four years to alumni startups
» 275 patents currently under management

Accelerator Centre

The Accelerator Centre (AC) is dedicated to building and scaling sustainable, globally competitive technology firms; and to commercializing advanced research technologies emerging from the University of Waterloo.

» 1,500 jobs generated through AC support
» $500M in revenue and investment
unique startups
FullSoul Canada

During a co-operative education term at a clinic in Uganda, University of Waterloo student Christina Marchand watched helplessly as a woman bled to death after giving birth. Back at Waterloo, Marchand co-founded FullSoul Canada, a social enterprise that equips hospitals in Uganda with maternal health kits that make deliveries safer and protect babies from HIV infection during birth.

Acorn Cryotech

Medical technologies will one day reverse many of the effects of aging through advancements like organ regeneration and genome editing. Waterloo students Steven ten Holder, Lauren Kennedy, Ayan A. Abukar and Matt Smart launched Acorn Cryotech, offering a cell-collection kit that will help people preserve their cells for future medical treatment.

KA Imaging

Treatable tuberculosis kills almost two million people each year, often because X-ray machines that diagnose the disease are too expensive for developing countries. Karim S. Karim, a professor of electrical engineering, has developed a low-cost digital X-ray machine that provides better images and lower doses of radiation than conventional equipment. Karim’s company, KA Imaging, will help save lives by putting this innovative technology in the hands of medical professionals by the end of 2016.
Hundreds of companies trace their roots to Waterloo’s one-of-a-kind entrepreneurship ecosystem. From creator-owns IP policy to experience-rich learning in the world’s leading co-operative education program of its kind, students, faculty and alumni of Waterloo find the support they need to succeed. By spearheading disruptive innovation, **Waterloo entrepreneurs transform industries and economies in Canada and around the world.**

182 Waterloo entrepreneurs have raised **$2.6B** (Pitchbook, 2015)

$2B in corporate value for Accelerator Centre companies

#1 school in Canada for venture capital-backed entrepreneurs (Pitchbook)

among Canadian institutions for graduate employability (2016 QS Graduate Employability Rankings)

more than **800** jobs created by Velocity companies

$300M raised by Velocity-founded companies including $200M since 2014

Talent engine of one of the world’s **TOP 25** startup ecosystems, with a regional startup density second only to Silicon Valley (Startup Compass 2015)
“Why does Silicon Valley look to (the University of Waterloo) as a great source of brilliant minds and brilliant ideas? Well, it has high intellectual standards, of course. And it values entrepreneurship.”

RT. HON. JUSTIN TRUDEAU, Prime Minister of Canada

“[Waterloo region has] the best combination of a great research university, great culture of entrepreneurship ... [and] the world’s best incubator and accelerator infrastructure.”

STEVE BLANK, Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur

“The University of Waterloo’s ability to attract top engineering and computer science students from the world over is a huge benefit to Canada and a major reason why we’ve been able to build a strong engineering and developer team for Google right here in Kitchener-Waterloo.”

STEVE WOODS, Senior Engineering Director, Country Product Lead, Google Canada, PhD ’96
unparalleled entrepreneurial ecosystem

inspiration
education
discovery
connection
incubation and acceleration

find out more
uwaterloo.ca/entrepreneurship