

FAQs for Students

1) What is Columbia Technology Ventures (Tech Ventures)?

[Columbia Technology Ventures](#) is the technology transfer office of Columbia University, charged with managing Columbia University's intellectual property. With more than 300 invention disclosures received, 50-60 license deals executed, and 10-12 start-up companies launched each year on average, Columbia Technology Ventures has ranked among the top five leading university technology transfer offices each year for the past decade. We also host ~20 lectures & panel discussions each year on topics related to entrepreneurship and intellectual property, which all students are welcome to attend.

2) I have an idea for a start-up company that I've been kicking-around. Can Tech Ventures help me?

Yes. Whether you have specific questions, would like to brainstorm about a potential business idea, or want to learn more about what it takes to launch a new venture, our [Venture Lab](#) can help you get started and connect you with a wide array of entrepreneurial resources at Columbia and in New York City. We host "[Entrepreneur Office Hours](#)" by appointment throughout the calendar year, dedicated to helping budding entrepreneurs harness, refine and realize their entrepreneurial aspirations.

3) I think I might have a new patentable invention. How can Tech Ventures help me?

When it comes to realizing the commercial potential of a new patentable invention, our seasoned team of business and legal professionals can help evaluate the commercial potential of your idea and advise you on important steps to protect, market, license, and/or otherwise position your idea for commercialization. Contact us at techventures@columbia.edu to set up an appointment, or visit our monthly "[Inventor Office Hours](#)", where we offer guidance on marketability, intellectual property protection, and resources to further develop your invention.

4) Does Columbia have an ownership claim to my invention?

While Columbia may in some instances have an ownership interest in your invention per [Columbia policy](#), Tech Ventures will generally assign whatever Columbia's rights and interests in the invention may be to you if all of the following are true:

- All Columbia-affiliated inventors are students;
- None of the Columbia-affiliated inventors is employed by the university in a research setting (e.g., research-related work study, part-time, casual, or temp roles; or research assistant, teaching assistant, fellow, or post-doc positions; or in any other research capacity); and
- The activity from which the invention arose did not make significant use of funding provided by or to the university (e.g., federal grants or industry funding for research), university research materials (e.g., laboratories or technical equipment), or university employee time (e.g., Faculty, technical staff).

Please note that, in keeping with many of our peer universities' practices, Tech Ventures generally does not consider the following to constitute "significant use":

- Advice that a student may receive from a faculty or staff member as may be commonly solicited in the context of an educational experience (i.e., related to a course); or
- Use of Columbia resources by students in the context of their coursework (e.g., classrooms, dorms, and email).

5) I'd like to learn more, where can I get more information?

For more information about Tech Ventures, who we are and what we do, please visit our website at www.techventures.columbia.edu or email us at techventures@columbia.edu. We also invite you to [join our mailing list](#) to receive the latest news and events on topics relating to technology transfer, entrepreneurship, and innovation at Columbia.