

From Final Year to Founder

Turning Student Ideas into Market Ventures



Applications Open – Apply Now!

www.obichipitchlab.com

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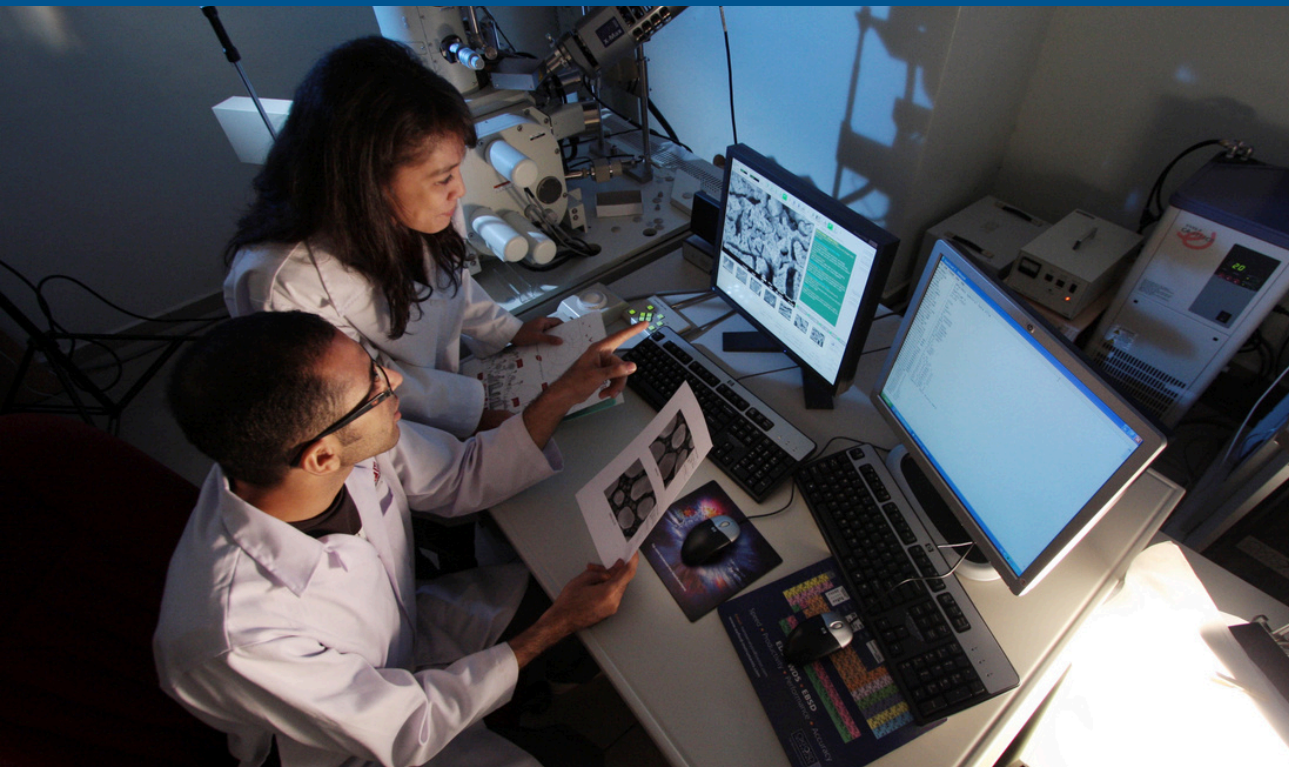
Message from the Founder

When I look across Africa, I see brilliant minds, groundbreaking research, and untapped potential. Yet too often, these ideas remain on paper—never reaching the people and communities who need them most.

I created Obichi PitchLab to change that. This programme is more than training; it is a movement to raise a new generation of Africans who can spot unmet needs and boldly create value through innovation and entrepreneurship.

My vision is simple: to empower young people to transform their research into real-world solutions that solve problems, create jobs, and inspire others. With mentorship, catalytic support, and the right skills, I believe our graduates will not just dream of change—they will drive it.

– Dr. Obichi Obiajunwa
Founder, Obichi PitchLab



Welcome Note

Obichi PitchLab is a pan-African innovation platform that transforms student and graduate research projects into thriving ventures.

By becoming an Obichi Scholar, you gain access to world-class mentorship, financial and technical support, and a powerful network of innovators. Upon completing the program, you graduate as a PitchLab Fellow, joining a continental community of founders shaping Africa's future.

Whether you are a final-year student, a recent graduate, or a young researcher, PitchLab is your launchpad into entrepreneurship.





Mission

To bridge the gap between academia and the marketplace by empowering Africa's brightest students and graduates with the tools, networks, and resources to commercialize their innovations.

Vision

To build a generation of young African innovators who see research not just as knowledge, but as a tool for entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and impact.

Why Apply?

- **Venture Acceleration:** Turn your research into a business.
- **Expert Mentorship:** Learn from leading industry and academic mentors.
- **Practical Learning:** Gain skills in business modeling, IP, fundraising, and pitching.
- **Global Exposure:** Connect with investors and partners worldwide.
- **Catalyst Grant:** Receive financial support during the program.
- **Prestige Identity:** Join a continental network as an Obichi Scholar → PitchLab Fellow.

Eligibility

You can apply if you are:

- A Final-year Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD student (any discipline).
- A recent graduate (≤ 2 years post-graduation).
- Working on a research project with commercialization potential.
- Able to secure consent from your supervisor (if currently in school).

Program Duration



2 Months

(Intensive Incubation Experience)



Catalyst Grant

Every participant receives a Catalyst Grant as direct financial support during the program:

Bachelors:

\$100/month



Masters:

\$150/month

PhD:

\$200/month

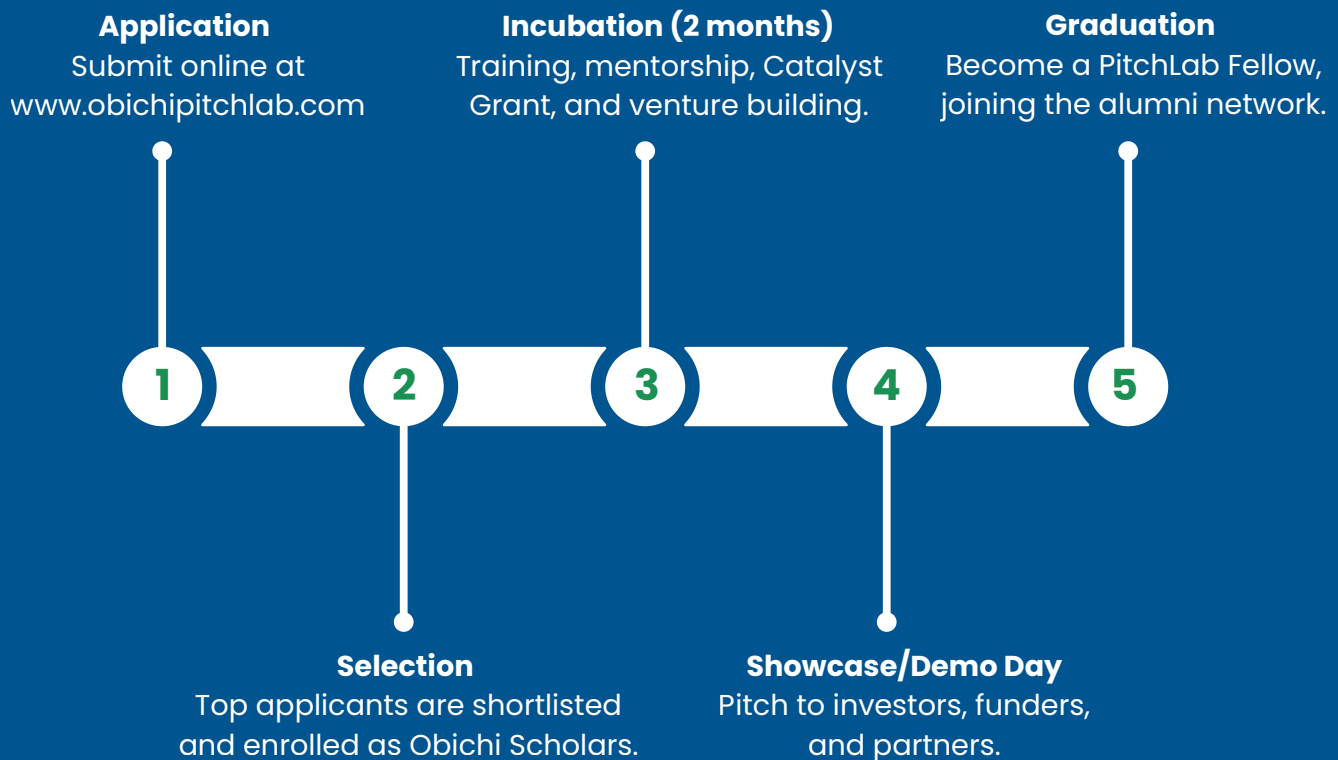


Total Support Package

Each Obichi Scholar receives a comprehensive support package valued at over \$5,000, including:

- Catalyst Grant
- Expert Mentorship
- Prototyping Support
- IP Protection Guidance
- Publication Support
- Business Registration & Legal Setup
- Commercialization & Investor Readiness Training
- Total estimated value per participant: \$5,000+

Program Journey



Key Tracks



**INNOVATION &
COMMERCIALIZATION**



**FUNDING &
INVESTMENT
READINESS**



**INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY & LEGAL
SUPPORT**



**LEADERSHIP &
GROWTH MINDSET**

Important Dates

Applications Open: **1st September 2025**

Deadline: **30th September 2025**

Program Start: **1st November 2025**



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is PitchLab only for Nigerians?

A: No. It is pan-African – students and graduates from across the continent can apply.

Q: Do I need a finished prototype?

A: Not necessarily. We support you to refine and test your idea.

Q: What disciplines are accepted?

A: All fields – Engineering, Health Sciences, Agriculture, Social Sciences, Technology, Arts, and more.

Certification

All participants who successfully complete the program will be awarded a:

“Certificate in Innovation & Research Commercialization”

– jointly issued by the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja in partnership with the Hutzpa Center for Innovation and Development.

Organizers:

Obichi PitchLab is organized by the Hutzpa Center for Innovation and Development in partnership with the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja.

www.obichipitchlab.com



Where Ideas Take Flight

 Abuja, Nigeria

 info@obichipitchlab.com

    @obichipitchlab

