OPEN OFFICE HOURS

THE PROGRAM

The Open Office Hours program is a free program of the Venture Cafe Foundation which aims to connect entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs to expert advisers and thereby help increase their chances of business success.

Why Become an Adviser ...

As an Expert Adviser in Venture Cafe's Open Office Hour Program, not only will you be able to help entrepreneurs, you will connect with some of the most innovative companies in the New England region. Each week, as part of the Foundation’s programming we have dozens of startups come to our locations.

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OPEN OFFICE HOURS

A PROFILE OF OUR ENTREPRENEURS

The entrepreneurs and prospective entrepreneurs that frequent Ventre Cafe fall into the following stages:

- Concept Stage: 24.41%
- Seed Stage: 23.21%
- Funded Stage: 12.78%
- Growth Stage: 24.11%
- Mature Stage: 15.49%

The vast majority of those who seek advice through our Open Office Hour program are in the early stages of their idea or venture. The adviser’s role will be over a long term to assist the entrepreneur or prospective entrepreneur to make solid progress in their project.

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SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ADVISERS

The selection criteria for new Advisers is based on our experience with what entrepreneurs need to move forward their businesses.

ENTREPRENEURS
Entrepreneurs with a successful track record including the following:

- Bootstrapping to scale
- Significant fundraising
- Successful exit
- 10+ years of startup experience

GENERAL BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL
Professionals with 10+ years experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Business development
- Finance
- Marketing & Sales
- Operations

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SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ADVISERS

INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL
Professionals with significant early-stage or industry expertise with 10+ years of experience in one of the following professions:

- Accountants
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Lawyers
- Marketing/PR
- Consultants with a track record of work with startups at a large firm.
- Etc.

INVESTORS

- Investors with 3+ years of experience
- Angel investors
- Corporate investors
- Venture capitalists

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SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ADVISERS

TECHNICAL EXPERTS

Technical Experts with specific, topical expertise in an area of rapid innovation. These include but are not limited to:

- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning
- Automation / Robotics
- Biotech / Life Science
- Chemistry/ Materials Science
- EdTech
- FinTech
- Hardware
- Health IT
- Internet of Things
- Software
- Transportation
- etc.

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We are looking for experts in the following areas.
Business Development/Sales
Finance
Engineering (Software or Hardware)
Healthcare Systems
Legal
Manufacturing/Distribution
Marketing
Operations
Organizational Design & Team
Product Development
Raising Capital & Funding
Sales
Strategy and Business
User Experience

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