Post-Accelerator Program FAQ's

What is the Post-Accelerator Program?

Tampa Bay Wave is one of the only technology accelerators in the country to also offer post-accelerator services. This unique feature allows our companies to continue to grow and succeed beyond the initial 90-day program.

The value of the post-accelerator services extends the value of the accelerator program and provides lasting value through continued access to our mentor and investor networks, peer support, member-exclusive discounts, and additional programming.

This combination of opportunities is in high demand and that is why Tampa Bay Wave is proud to be accepting applications for our Post-Accelerator Program.

The Tampa Bay Wave just became the first Accelerator in the State of Florida to be accepted into GAN (Global Accelerator Network). Accepted companies will also have the benefit of becoming a member of the Global Accelerator Network.

What companies are currently in the Launch & Grow segments of the Post Accelerator Program?

List of Launch Companies

List of Grow Companies

What are the criteria to be accepted?

Launch Stage Criteria:

- Market Validation & Sales: Paying customers and/or paid pilots. Prefer at least $100,000 in sales and/or significant market traction.
- Dedicated Management Team: founding team is full-time and exclusively focused on the company
- Investable Business: Existing pitch assets and/or an angel round of at least $100,000
- Governance & Legal Structure: Executed Operating Agreement

- Accounting & Finance: Existing budget and financial model with a qualified accounting platform
- Business Plan: Documented, viable and scalable
- Financial Runway: At least 6-12 months
- Membership Fee: $2,400 annually

Grow Stage Criteria:

- Launch Criteria: Company must meet or exceed the Launch stage criteria
- Annual Revenue and/or Capital Raised: $1M in annual recurring revenue or $1M Series A or above
- Scalable Marketing & Sales Process: Can demonstrate results and repeatable market traction
- Standard Operating Procedures: Active and documented operating processes and procedures
- Executive Management Team: Three or more full-time members
- Team Growth: At least 10 full-time employees
- Human Resources: Active and documented operating processes and procedures
- Advisory Board: Recommended
- Membership Fee: $2,400 annually

What are the key dates?

- September 15th: Deadline to Apply
- September 21st: Notifications provided to all companies on finalists selected
- Week of September 24th: Finalist Interviews with Selection Committee
- October 16th: Program Kick off and Friends of Wave Social at night
- October 17th: Mentor Surge
- November 29th: Pitch Night
- January 23rd or 24th: Demo Day

Will my company become a member of the Global Accelerator Network (GAN) once accepted into the program?

Yes, once you are accepted into the Post-Accelerator program, you will also become a member of GAN (Global Accelerator Network). GAN offers a significant amount of national perk partners to receive discounts on a variety of products and services. GAN also has a national mentor network, corporate connections program, and ability to co-work at their 90 Accelerators in the world.

Over the last 10 years, more than 4,700 startups have gone through a GAN Accelerator, and network data shows that 85% of those startups are still in business today. That's no coincidence. GAN Accelerators provide strategic support, human and financial capital, and unparalleled networking and connections to startups at the earliest stages of their companies, when they need it the most.

Do you take equity/how much does it cost?

No, we are a non-profit organization and we believe you've earned your hard earned equity and should retain it. We are supported by grants and corporate sponsorships. There is a $2,400 Annual Membership Investment per company.

Do I have to be located or based in the Greater Tampa Bay area to be accepted?

Yes. If a company is relocating to the area, proof of relocation is required.

How many companies will you accept into the cohort?

There is no set number as quality is our most important priority and bringing in CEO's and talent that will add value to other Wave members.

When will I hear back if I've been accepted?

Companies can expect to hear back from us by September 21st whether they have been selected to interview with the selection committee. Please do not reach out to us directly to ask the status of your application. We assure you that we're working on it and will be in touch. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of applications that we receive, we generally cannot provide feedback on specific applications.

Do I need to be full-time in my business?

Yes. Although we individually evaluate each company on its merits and current progress, there is a strong correlation between accelerating your company and your ability to be full time.

Do I need to have a technical co-founder?

Although this isn't a requirement, having a technical co-founder or member of your management team is highly recommended.

Do you accept companies that are competitive to one another?

It is possible with the high growth nature of technology that there is some overlap in our current companies or new accelerator companies. Most big markets have room for different solutions, so we don't offer exclusivity per say. However, we are very careful in protecting your business' trade secrets. We also require all companies to sign a Code of Conduct.

We do our best to avoid accepting competitive companies into the same program class. However, with the growing number of companies, it is possible that there may be competitive companies in the broader Tampa Bay Wave network.

Do you invest in companies?

The Wave doesn't directly invest in our companies. However, we have a growing investor network of over 200 people and we actively make introductions based on readiness and fit.

What sectors do you currently represent?

Currently, our companies represent some of the highest growth tech sectors in the market: Education, Health, Big Data, Marketing, B2B SaaS, Financial, Hospitality, Legal/HR, Real Estate, Energy, Regulatory, etc. Click here for list of all sectors and companies.

How many members of my team can participate?

We welcome up to 3 members of your team, with at least one being a co-founder.

Will you sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA)?

No, we do not sign NDAs because we look at hundreds of business plans each year. However, we will work with you to find the balance between understanding your company's unique advantage without requiring you to divulge proprietary information. In your application, please avoid disclosing any technical information that you consider to be your "secret sauce" or trade secret, but be as clear as possible about your competitive advantage.

What types of startups are NOT a good fit for the program?

We do not accept hobbyist/lifestyle businesses or companies without a strong emphasis on a technology-based value proposition. Also, if you don't have any sales or market validation yet or do not have a working prototype or Beta, you are most likely too early for this program.