

# Program Overview

The [Future Innovation Leaders Program](#) is a new, purpose-designed professional development initiative to propel PhD candidates towards high-impact careers in space or defence related industries, government, and the not-for-profit sector. Through a mix of masterclasses, mentoring by industry professionals and curated events, participants will gain practical skills in innovation leadership, commercial acumen, and cross-sector collaboration.

Whether you're looking to build your career in the space/defence sector, lead collaborative R&D projects, or drive innovation in your field, this program will help you stand out with the networks, experience and confidence to match. This program supports the growing need for researchers who can lead the development and translation of advanced technologies.

The Future Innovation Leaders Program is designed and delivered by [Cruxes Innovation](#). Cruxes Innovation helps universities and research organisations build innovation, entrepreneurship and research translation capabilities. Since 2020, Cruxes Innovation has designed and delivered experiential impact-enhancement learning and coaching programs to over 1,800 Australian university researchers across 35 universities across multiple discipline areas.

## What to expect:

- **Hands-on masterclasses** and **expert-led training**
- **Mentoring** with innovation and industry leaders
- Opportunities to connect at **showcase events and industry roundtables**
- A **supportive cohort** of peers committed to research with impact.

## Why join the Future Innovation Leaders Program?

- Propel your career forward ready to seize diverse opportunities
- Build networks with industry leaders
- Develop sought-after skills to become a competitive candidate for high-impact job opportunities
- Build connections, raise your profile and pitch your capabilities at the International Astronautical Congress in Sydney.

## FAQs

### What is the time commitment?

Approximately 1 day per month **from September 2025 to March 2026**, including:

- 1-hour monthly 1:1 mentoring meetings
- 3 half-day online masterclass sessions
- In-person networking events, industry roundtables & conferences, including an event at the International Astronautical Congress (29 Sep – 3 Oct 2025)



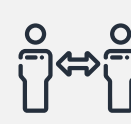
≈ 1 day per month



3 half-day online masterclass sessions



In-person networking events, industry roundtables & conferences



1-hour monthly 1:1 mentoring meetings

### Who is the program for?

The program is for **PhD students working with an industry partner** as part of their PhD project that is **supported through the iLAUNCH Trailblazer** or in affiliate sectors such as hypersonic technology, space or defence.

### What is the cost to participate?

Participation is **free** through sponsorship by **iLAUNCH Trailblazer awards**. Participation is secured by successful application.



**Apply now and start building your post-PhD pathway to impact.**

To apply, scan the QR code or click this [link](#).

### Still have questions?

Send us an email via [hello@cruxesinnovation.com](mailto:hello@cruxesinnovation.com)



# The Future Innovation Leaders Program

A 6-month professional development program shaping HDR candidates into future leaders driving innovation across research and industry in space and defence.

