Business incubators in Munich

Start-ups and young companies in Munich can benefit from access to a series of business incubators. Incubators support innovative, newly launched firms as they seek to master typical challenges in the start-up phase. They provide business premises, infrastructure, focused consulting and funding programs to increase the chances that newcomers to the market will be able to survive – and thrive.

Do you know the most important business incubators in Munich?
"Business incubators in Munich" contains a list of various facilities, including details of who to contact.

We expressly state that this list lays no claim to completeness.
If you are interested in having your incubator added to this list, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Schillitz:
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Bavarian Film Center

The Bavarian Film Center gives a home to start-ups in the media industry. Newcomers receive professional consulting in dramatic composition, film and TV production and digital strategies, as well as an overview of content creation for new technologies. They benefit from a creative environment, an extensive network and cutting-edge infrastructure. An assortment of programs support young authors in traditional fields and content creators in innovative formats – from master classes to labs to storytelling hackathons.

The Bavarian Film Center provides modern office space, good working conditions, a comprehensive set of services and individual care. Tenants can use the center's secretary pool and telephone service, a copying center and the central mail and dispatch service. There are even conference facilities and a showroom. Players who do not require a permanent office also have the option of simply using the center's mailbox.
BayStartUP is your professional guide through the Bavarian startup scene. The experienced team prepares startups for funding rounds and connects them with venture capitalists and business angels from Germany’s largest network of investors. BayStartUP offers a broad range of services for founders, business angels and industry representatives alike:

- BayStartUP runs Germany’s largest investor’s and business angel network for investors interested in fast growing young companies.
- Also, BayStartUP hosts business plan competitions in Munich, Northern Bavaria, Bavarian Swabia and south-east Bavaria where startups can present their business plans to juries of entrepreneurs, business managers and investors. An expert jury provides substantial feedback to every participant on their business plans.
- BayStartUP also supports startup companies to optimize their business strategy and prepare all documents relevant for representing the company especially to investors or strategic partners, providing financial coaching and workshops to startup teams.
At the Entrepreneurship Center on the Garching research campus, the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and UnternehmerTUM GmbH have bundled their offerings for start-ups under one roof. The center boasts a no-gaps support infrastructure to develop talented entrepreneurs and promising business opportunities.

For academics, students, alumni and professionals, the center services as an interface, a melting pot to nourish their entrepreneurial spirit and access seamless support across all entrepreneurial processes. It thus creates ideal conditions for a flourishing entrepreneurial ecosystem: high-level research, a broad spectrum of courses, tailor-made coaching and – thanks to the MakerSpace – a perfect technical setting for prototype construction. In essence, the center combines an incubator, an accelerator and a venture capital fund in one.

What exactly is on offer? Start-up consulting, qualification programs, the "MakerSpace" high-tech workshop and entrepreneurship research together with the chairs at the TUM Entrepreneurship Research Institute (ERI) and in the incubator itself.
The ESA BIC Bavaria business incubator supports entrepreneurs with innovative ideas for the use of aerospace technologies in other areas of the economy. At four locations around Bavaria – Oberpfaffenhofen, Ottobrunn, Nuremberg and Berchtesgadener Land – it has sufficient capacity to support the market entry of 15 start-ups a year.

In collaboration with respected partners, companies receive support for up to two years. Both funding and technical support is provided to start-ups as an incentive, i.e. they are not required to hand over shares in their business in return.

The program is partnered by the European Space Agency (ESA), the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Airbus Defence & Space, the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS), the Berchtesgadener Land Economic Development Agency and a number of regional savings banks.
gate – Garching Technology and Start-Up Center

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gate Garching was opened in November 2002 as part of a Bavarian government high-tech offensive. It is an attractive base for young technology companies in and around Munich.

5,000 m² of lettable office space plus 500 m² of warehouse and workshop space is available. Facilities are rented out to start-ups and young companies that develop innovative technologies in areas such as Industry 4.0, automotive engineering, robotics, artificial intelligence, smart energy, software and the Internet of Things (IoT).
The Impact Hub Munich is an innovation space for sustainable economic activity, a framework and source of stimulus for both co-creative work and entrepreneurship that serves the common good. In keeping with their motto of "enabling people to do good", the operators seek to empower people to devote their full energy to doing what they really want to do. To help them do so, the Impact Hub surrounds them with a supportive infrastructure, inspiring events and a vibrant community.

The Impact Hub Munich is part of a global network that has set itself the goal of having a positive impact on the world. Founded in 2005, it today comprises 86 open hubs with more than 15,000 members, extending from Amsterdam to Johannesburg, from Singapore to San Francisco.
Established in 1995, Fördergesellschaft IZB mbH operates two Innovation and Start-Up Centers, one in Planegg/Martinsried and the other in Freising-Weihenstephan. Today, these centers rank among the top ten biotech incubators in the world. Over 650 people work here for 60 companies in 26,000 m² of space.

One reason for the success of the IZB is its close geographic proximity to the leading research that goes on at Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) and at respected biotechnology research organizations – such as the Max Planck institutes – at the Martinsried campus.

Red (or medical) biotechnology is the focus of start-ups' activities in Planegg/Martinsried, which has now grown to 23,000 m². Since 2002, the 3,000 m² IZB site in Freising-Weihenstephan has provided well-equipped space for the launch of life sciences companies.
The LMU Entrepreneurship Center (LMU EC) at Munich's Ludwig Maximilians University motivates students and graduates to start their own company and helps them get their idea off the ground.

Concentrating on the three areas of teaching, community and lab activities, it supports start-ups and other firms, gets students excited about entrepreneurship and organizes events relating to the subjects of start-ups and innovation. Twice a year, start-ups supported by the LMU Entrepreneurship Center showcase their capabilities on the big stage at the LMU. Details of forthcoming events are posted online.
Media Lab Bayern promotes digital innovation in the media industry. Acting as an incubator, it helps talented individuals and teams to develop journalism and media projects from initial idea to company start-up. Operated under the aegis of Bavarian new media regulator BLM, it is funded by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology.

The core programs at Media Lab Bayern are the Media Entrepreneurship Program and the Media Startup Fellowship. Participants in the former program learn methods such as design thinking and lean start-up approaches and apply these to their own project ideas. The Media Startup Fellowship builds on this foundation: Teams with validated ideas are given four months in which to develop their prototypes, establish a business model and launch their start-up. The program is accompanied by business coaching, workshops and access to media mentors and partners. The teams are supplied with office space and a EUR 10,000 prototyping budget.

Media Lab Bayern also promotes innovation with hackathons, BarCamps, meet-ups and conferences at which digital thought leaders from the realms of journalism, development and design have the opportunity to share and forge networks.
The Munich Technology Center (MTZ) supports start-ups and young entrepreneurs from all technology backgrounds by providing suitable space and intensive coaching during the start-up phase.

The MTZ operates an integrated technology park policy in which the MTZ itself serves as an incubator for the first few years of a start-up. Right next-door, the M-Campus technology park provides high-quality space for established technology companies.
Do you want to help solve problems in society through entrepreneurial action?

True to its motto "Education for societal change", the Social Entrepreneurship Academy teaches students (budding) social entrepreneurs and employees (or "intrapreneurs") alike. Set up as a cooperative organization across the four universities in Munich, the Academy provides qualifications, networking opportunities and support primarily to young people as they seek to bring social commitment and entrepreneurial action together for the good of society.

To this end, it operates training programs, supports specific social start-up projects and drives development of a broad network to anchor social entrepreneurship in our society.
Under the aegis of the Munich University of Applied Sciences, the Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship (SCE) provides education and research programs in the field of entrepreneurship, promotes innovation processes and supports the development of entrepreneurial personalities.

The SCE supports start-ups that are spun off from the academic community. It walks young companies through the development of their ideas to the point of market-ready innovation. In so doing, it seeks to play an active part in shaping the future of our society and establishing a wide-ranging culture of entrepreneurship.

The SCE was launched in 2002, originally as an institute of the Munich University of Applied Sciences (MUAS). In July 2011, the SCE and the MUAS together became one of a total of six EXIST start-up universities in Germany.
The WERK1 incubator near Munich's east-end Ostbahnhof station targets the singularly diverse start-up community that exists in the digital media industry. FinTechs and InsurTechs became additional focal points in 2016. WERK1 combines office space and co-working with community, events and workshops.

On premises of 4,000 m², the incubator combines a co-working space with an event location and a café. Over 35 start-ups are currently headquartered here, while the community also embraces numerous freelancers, entrepreneurs and partner companies.

WERK1 is the centerpiece of the WERK1.Bayern initiative and is funded by the Free State of Bavaria. Its other shareholders are the City of Munich, the administrative district of Munich and a several private enterprises, including ProSiebenSAT.1 Media AG. WERK1 serves as a role model for a number of new incubators in Bavaria.
Consulting and networking:

Point of Single Contact (PSC) – Corporate services from a single source

Contact
Landeshauptstadt München
Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft
Wirtschaftsförderung
EAP - Einheitlicher Ansprechpartner
Herzog-Wilhelm-Straße 15
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The Point of Single Contact (PSC) at the City of Munich is the first port of call at the Economic Development unit for anyone who is interested in setting up a business or opening a branch office in Munich. The PSC provides valuable guidance through the local administration and coordinates interactions with local government.

Free advice is available in German and English.

The PSC provides support and advice in the following areas:

- General framework and business premises in Munich
- Necessary licenses and approvals
- Eligibility requirements and formalities relating to starting a business and moving to Munich
- In-depth consulting and service offerings

Please contact us to make an appointment.
Since 1988, the Munich Business Startup Office (MEB) has been the vehicle via which the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Munich and Upper Bavaria and the City of Munich have provided advice and consulting for people preparing to go self-employed.

Subjects covered in consulting:
- Start-up formalities
- Business plan
- Choice of legal form and taxation issues
- Private and company pensions and insurance
- Offers of funding and financial assistance
- Seminars and events
- Offers of space and incubators

Services:
Information event (subject to registration at www.gruenden-in-muenchen.de/infoveranstaltung)

Consulting by appointment (call on +49 (0)89 5116-1759)

Short film explaining the basics of starting a business:
www.gruenden-in-muenchen.de/de/mediathek/filme

Up-to-date overview of everything the Munich start-up community has to offer, including brochures, leaflets and details of who to contact
MUNICH STARTUP

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Munich Startup is the official start-up portal for Munich and the surrounding region. It has established itself as the first virtual port of call for innovative technology start-ups in and around Munich.

Munich Startup presents both content and relevant actors neutrally, independently and transparently. It thus brings clarity to the start-up community and helps entrepreneurs to forge links with potential partners, investors and mentors.

All key stakeholders in the Munich start-up scene are actively involved. This level of support, dialogue and active networking help make Munich one of the top locations in Europe for young, fast-growing companies.

This information bulletin has been carefully researched and diligently complied. Nevertheless, the City of Munich does not accept any liability or give any guarantee for the validity, accuracy and completeness of the information provided. Please address any questions, comments or suggestions to: Karin Schillitz, Phone: + 49 89 233-27149 or Mail: karin.schillitz@muenchen.de