



AMERICAN
TECHNION
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About the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute

The Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is a uniquely experimental graduate institute housed at the Cornell Tech campus on New York City's Roosevelt Island. A partnership between Cornell University and the Technion, the Jacobs Institute represents a next-generation model for STEM education, designed around industry focused "hubs" that address specific areas of social and economic need. As the embodiment of the Technion and Cornell's winning submission in New York City's competition to create an applied sciences grad school, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is boosting the City's tech sector and fostering companies with global impact. By advancing collaboration between academia and industry, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is spinning off startups that are helping transform the City into a global tech hub.

The Cornell Tech Campus: The overall campus that houses the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute and numerous Cornell University initiatives is referred to as "Cornell Tech" because Cornell is responsible for the full legal and financial burden of designing and funding what has been estimated to be a \$2 billion project. (The Technion, a public university in Israel, is unable to legally take this responsibility.) The campus is designed to promote collaboration through its glass-walled indoor spaces and public outdoor spaces, and is one of the most environmentally friendly and energy efficient campuses in the world.

Its buildings include:

- Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Center (academic building, established with a \$100 gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies)
- The House (residential tower)
- Tata Innovation Center (innovation space for academia and industry), renamed in recognition of a \$50 million gift from the Mumbai-based Tata Consultancy Services
- Verizon Executive Education Center
- Graduate Roosevelt Island Hotel

When fully complete in 2037, the campus will encompass more than two million square feet and will be home to more than 2,000 graduate students and hundreds of faculty and staff.

A Home for Experimentation: The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is an independent entity, free to test the boundaries of traditional education, and experiment with novel academic programs and entrepreneurial initiatives. As such, the curriculum is not centered on specific disciplines, but on interdisciplinary "hubs" relevant to New York City's key industries. They change to meet the City's evolving demands and advance the campus's vision of creating pioneering leaders and technologies for the digital age.

The Institute's first two hubs were **Connective Media**, focused on human-centered mobile and interactive media, and **Health Tech**, which leverages Cornell Tech's affiliation with Weill Cornell Medicine and is centered on creating digital health care solutions. Launched in 2014 with 12 students, the Connective Media hub has 298 graduates to date; another 50 scheduled to

graduate in May 2024. Health Tech, launched a year later with 6 students, has graduated 83 students to date and expects 13 graduates in May 2024.

In Fall 2020, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute launched the **Urban Tech Hub** with a \$15 million gift from Stephen Ross, Chairman and Founder of Related Companies. Headed by Michael Samuelian, an urban planner and real estate developer, the hub provides students the opportunity to pursue emerging sectors in urban innovation such as transportation, real estate, intelligent buildings and more. This concentration allows students to use machine learning, data science, human-computer interaction, and product design to address the multifaceted challenges of city life, while gaining insight from NYC planners and entrepreneurs. The hub has grown from its inaugural cohort of 14 students to 45 graduates to date, with 13 more expected in May 2024.

Some Highlights of 2023-2024 include:

- Hosted 15 American Technion Society Rothman Fellows, who are prepared to serve as Technion ambassadors
- Launched a corporate track in the Runway Startup Postdoc Program
- Held its second annual HealthNext Summit in March 2024 featuring Chelsea Clinton from the Clinton Foundation and Dr. Sumbul Desai, VP of Health for Apple

Dual Degree: The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is fully accredited by the State of New York, and its graduates receive dual two-year master's degrees from the Technion and Cornell University. Its inaugural class in 2016 marked the first time an international university granted an accredited degree for studies on U.S. soil. Some 60 to 70 master's students graduate each year, and easily enter the job market.

The Runway Startup Postdoc Program: Part business school, part research institution and part startup incubator—the Runway Program is geared to students who have mastered their academic disciplines but want to learn how to start a company. Based at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, Runway ushers recent Ph.Ds. in digital technology fields through a paradigm shift — from an academic mindset to an entrepreneurial outlook — turning research into tech products and services that make a difference in people's lives. Transitioning from academia to business, students take through classes and workshops on entrepreneurship, have access to academic and industry mentors and significant financial support.

The program launched in 2014 with five postdocs, and five postdocs were selected from 52 outstanding applications for the most recent 11th Runway cohort in the Fall of 2023. To date, a total of 47 Runway companies have incorporated; 39 of which are still operating; and three have been acquired. Other metrics include:

- Patents: 75 patent applications and 34 granted
- Investments: Jacobs has invested approximately \$11.7 million, and private funding amounts to \$268.5 million
- Employees: 278

At the Helm: The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute has attracted some of the most highly regarded educational leaders including:

- **Professor Israel Cidon '80** became the director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute in October 2023. A former chaired professor and dean of the Erna Viterbi Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Technion, Prof. Cidon comes to the Institute from VMware Research. There he served as vice president and led research on high-performance, geo-distributed networks spanning IoT, data centers, and public clouds. His work aimed to enable and optimize modern distributed applications.
- **Dr. Fernando Gomez-Baquero**, director of the Runway Program and Spinouts, is an award-winning, nanomaterials engineer and entrepreneur who has been recognized for bringing energy technologies from academia to the market. With a Ph.D. in nanoscale engineering from the University at Albany SUNY and a background in industrial engineering and economics, he has helped Runway Postdocs to create products including a mobile tool for assessing neurological conditions, a smart baby monitor, a wearable UV radiation tracker for lupus patients, and more.
- **Technion Professor Ariel Orda** heads the Jacobs Program at the Technion. Committed to the notion that the Jacobs Institute should serve as a “home away from home” for Technion students, he brought a delegation of Technion deans to the Roosevelt Island campus in May 2023 aimed at increasing joint teaching activities, joint student supervision, and collaborative research projects.

History of Cornell Tech, Home of the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute:

Aiming to make New York City’s economy more diversified and competitive, then Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced in 2010 that the city would provide \$100 million to the institution or consortium of institutions with the best proposal for an applied science campus. In December 2011, the Cornell and Technion partnership was selected by the City as the first winner of the competition.

On April 22, 2013, Dr. Irwin Mark Jacobs, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus of Qualcomm, and his wife Joan Klein Jacobs, announced a \$133 million naming gift to Cornell University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to create the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute. They both are Cornell alumni who have a long history of supporting Cornell University and the Technion. The Jacobs’ visionary support of the Technion includes the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Graduate School and the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Center for Communications and Information Technologies (CCIT). Dr. Jacobs also directed Qualcomm to establish an R&D center (the company’s first outside of San Diego) near the Technion campus in Haifa in 1993, to take better advantage of its talented graduates.

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Media Contact:

Kevin Hattori
kevin@ats.org / 212.407.6319