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What is FastTrac?

FastTrac is a suite of courses that provide hands-on, intensive instruction to help entrepreneurs hone the skills needed to start, manage and grow a successful business.

The City of New York has partnered with the Kauffman Foundation to provide two no cost FastTrac courses to New Yorkers: **FastTrac NewVenture** and **FastTrac GrowthVenture**.

What is FastTrac NewVenture?

FastTrac NewVenture is a course designed to help aspiring entrepreneurs evaluate and perfect their business concepts, including all steps necessary to launch.

FastTrac NewVenture includes:

- A 6-day intensive course (2 full days a week over 3 weeks)
- One-on-one assistance from experienced entrepreneurs who will help you review your ideas, assignments, and business plan
- Interactive presentations from successful entrepreneurs who can share their experience
- Wrap-up session to formally present your final business plan for maximum feedback
- Connection to services that will help you start your business, including [NYC Business Express](#) and [NYC Business Solutions](#)

What will I accomplish by the end of FastTrac NewVenture?

By the end of the course, students will have vetted their business idea with experienced coaches and successful entrepreneurs, developed a strong business plan, and connected to services that will help them start their business, including NYC Business Solutions.

Who can apply for FastTrac NewVenture?

You are eligible for FastTrac NewVenture if you are a **New York City resident** with:

- A well thought out idea for a new business
- Two years of work experience
- Access to a computer to complete assignments
- Commitment to attend all sessions (approximately 40 classroom hours) and complete prep work

Do I have to be unemployed to take FastTrac NewVenture?

Applicants do not have to be unemployed to take FastTrac NewVenture. However, FastTrac NewVenture is designed to provide a "crash course" for starting a business to individuals that have a significant amount of time to dedicate to this endeavor. All FastTrac NewVenture courses require that students attend 6-full day classes over 3-weeks and complete extensive assignments outside the classroom between sessions.

What is FastTrac GrowthVenture?

FastTrac GrowthVenture is designed to help leaders of existing operating businesses review and reshape their business models to adapt to challenges they face in the current economic climate.

FastTrac GrowthVenture consists of:

- An 8-session classroom training held twice a week over 4 weeks (4-hours per session)
- One-on-one assistance from experienced entrepreneurs who will help you review your ideas, assignments, and business plan
- Interactive presentations from successful entrepreneurs who can share their experience
- Connection to services that will help you operate and expand your business, including [NYC Business Express](#) and [NYC Business Solutions](#)

Who can apply for FastTrac GrowthVenture?

You are eligible for FastTrac GrowthVenture if you are a New York City resident with:

- A business that has been in operation for one or more years
- A well thought out argument for how FastTrac GrowthVenture will benefit your company
- Access to a computer to complete assignments
- Commitment to attend all sessions (approximately 30 classroom hours) and complete prep work

Must my business be incorporated or registered as a DBA in order to take FastTrac GrowthVenture?

It is not required to have an incorporated or DBA registered business to take the course. However, you must manage an operating business and fulfill the course eligibility criteria to take a FastTrac GrowthVenture.

What will I accomplish by the end of FastTrac GrowthVenture?

By the end of the course, students will have updated your business plan for strategic growth, and connected to services that will help them start their business, including NYC Business Solutions.

When are FastTrac courses offered?

Starting in April, both FastTrac NewVenture and FastTrac GrowthVenture will be offered by the Department of Small Business Services on a monthly basis.

How do I apply for FastTrac courses?

Please visit www.nyc.gov/FastTrac to apply for an available FastTrac NewVenture or FastTrac GrowthVenture course.

Who teaches FastTrac courses?

FastTrac courses are taught by course instructors (also known as facilitators) and business coaches who are experienced entrepreneurs in various business fields.

How are FastTrac courses structured?

Each session, the course facilitator presents a lesson to the class, followed by breakout work groups with business coaches, during which students perform in-class brainstorming exercises and review assignments and business plans.

Also, guest speakers will make presentations to students throughout the course to offer insight into a particular aspect of starting or managing a business.

What is the class size for FastTrac courses?

Each FastTrac course includes 20 to 30 participants.

How much do FastTrac courses cost?

FastTrac courses for entrepreneurs are being offered by the City of New York and the Kauffman Foundation at **no cost**.

What is the acceptance process for FastTrac courses?

Admittance to FastTrac courses is determined as follows:

1. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for the course.
2. For **FastTrac NewVenture**, applicants will be rated based on the one business concept they propose. It is important that applicants submit thorough descriptions and responses to questions in order to strengthen their applications and improve their chance of acceptance.
For **FastTrac GrowthVenture**, applicants will be rated based on their stated business needs. It is important that applicants submit thorough descriptions and responses to questions in order to strengthen their applications and improve their chance of acceptance.
3. Students will be notified of their acceptance **no later than one week** before the course start date.

Where are FastTrac courses held? When will I be notified of my course's location?

FastTrac courses are held throughout the city in training spaces provided by partner organizations. Classroom locations vary by course. Students will be notified of their course's location no later than one week before the course start date.

Where do I go to learn more and or apply for a FastTrac course?

Please visit www.nyc.gov/FastTrac to learn more about FastTrac courses and to apply online. Also, if you cannot find the answer to your particular question at www.nyc.gov/FastTrac, please email FastTrac@sbs.nyc.gov.

If I am not a New York City resident, but I have worked and paid taxes in New York City and plan to open my start-up in New York City, am I eligible to take a FastTrac course?

We require that participants reside in New York City as part of the eligibility criteria for both FastTrac NewVenture and FastTrac GrowthVenture. We will notify the public if we are able to make FastTrac courses available to individuals that have worked and paid taxes in New York City and intend to start their businesses in the City at a later date.

When can I find out the official course schedule for each course?

The course schedules for upcoming FastTrac NewVenture and FastTrac GrowthVenture courses are released on a rolling basis at www.nyc.gov/FastTrac . Otherwise, please email FastTrac@sbs.nyc.gov to request a notification once new course dates are available online.

May I register for a course if I will not be able to attend all sessions?

It is required that students attend all course sessions in order to graduate and benefit fully from FastTrac. All admitted students are required to sign a commitment letter confirming that they are available and will attend all sessions of the course.

How many hours of outside work will I be expected to complete?

FastTrac NewVenture and FastTrac GrowthVenture require students to work on their business plans and conduct research outside of class. Outside coursework will require a minimum of 10 to 15 hours per week for the duration of the course.

Will I be able to access help for starting, operating or expanding my business after the course is over?

During your FastTrac course, you will be directed to available tools, resources, and services to help you start, operate or expand your business following the completion of the course. These services include [NYC Business Express](#) to learn about the licenses and permits required for your business and [NYC Business Solutions](#) to get loan facilitation, legal and hiring assistance.

How much will I be expected to participate in class discussions?

Your participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged and will help you benefit fully from FastTrac. Work groups with business coaches and other students are only as useful as students make them through their engagement in discussions and brainstorming exercises. We think that each student can offer a new perspective and improve the course by contributing. Also, we encourage equal participation from all students and work to prevent course discussions that are dominated by a few individuals.