



BRAIN X PROGRAM

Capacity building program to support research translation



MEDI



AfricaGrow
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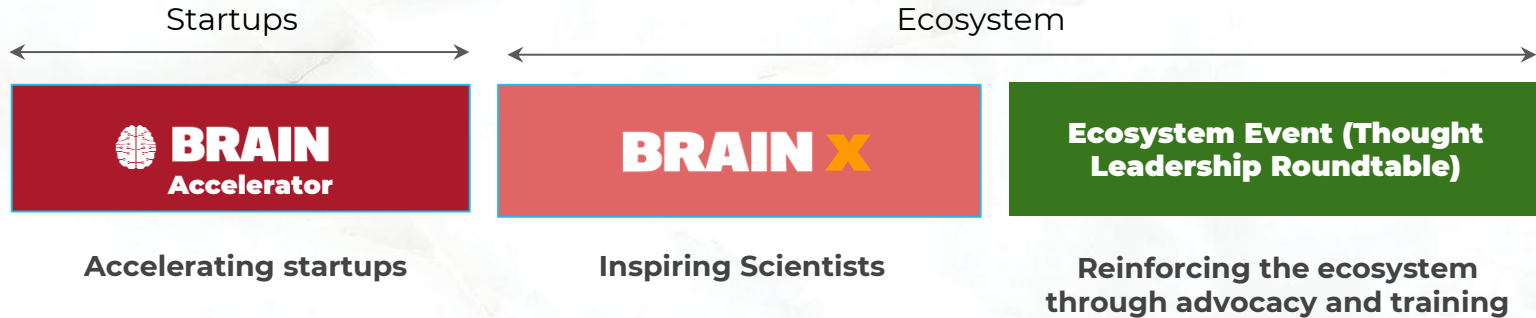




BRAIN PROGRAM

BRAIN IS THE FIRST PAN AFRICAN HOLISTIC INITIATIVE THAT AIMS TO FOSTER THE FOUNDATIONS OF DEEP TECH IN AFRICA

Over 4 years, we have developed a continuum of programs that inspire and accelerate startups while **reinforcing** the ecosystems that surround them.





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BRAINX CONTEXT

Upon the interaction with different **scientists and researchers** from diverse African universities and ecosystems, an emphasis was placed on the crucial need of **preparing scientists for this new mindset** by raising their awareness about the different opportunities lying in translating their research, inspiring them with **success stories** and introducing them to the **basic concepts of entrepreneurship**.

Recognizing the limited initiatives in this domain across the continent, **BRAINx was developed**.



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Why **BRAINX** is for Tunisian Women Scientists

Scientific Leadership

Tunisian women rank 1st in Africa and the Arab world in scientific research, representing **55.1%** of all researchers.

Global Recognition

Tunisia ranks 1st worldwide in female STEM enrollment (**43.3%**) and 2nd globally in women holding higher education degrees in STEM fields.

Academic Excellence

Women represent **70%** of graduates and **62%** of PhD holders, with strong participation in medical (**70.4%**) and engineering (**56.3%**) studies.



BRAINX PROGRAM

BRAINX Tunisia is an initiative by **Open Startup (OST)**, in partnership with **MEPI**, designed to **empower Tunisian women scientists and researchers** to transform their research into deeptech ventures with commercial potential. Building on the foundations of the BRAINX program (developed with MIT), this edition combines structured **entrepreneurship training**, tailored **mentorship**, and exposure to **global startup ecosystems**.

Bootcamp Details:

- **Format:** In-person in Hammamet, Tunisia.
- **Target Audience:** 30 women scientists (2 female co-founders teams)
- **Duration:** 2 day bootcamp, October 18–19, 2025
- **Mentorship:** Online, October 27 – November 21.



BRAINX IMPACT

Bridge

Bridge research and entrepreneurship to unlock transformative opportunities.

Enable

Enable inclusive and regionally balanced innovation for sustainable growth.

Connect

Connect Tunisia's talent with global and U.S. startup ecosystems.

Through a Human-Centered Approach

Bootcamp with Hands-on Workshops

Hands-on sessions with ecosystem experts

Mentorship Matching

Individual guidance from seasoned mentors



BRAINX BOOTCAMP Logistics

Location



Sindbad hotel, Hammamet

Date



October 18–19, 2025
Check-in: October: 17,
2025

Logistics

- Reimbursement of the two-way transportation costs.
- Full Coverage of the hotel accommodation
- Meals for the 2 nights



BRAINX SELECTION CRITERIA

Targeted Persona

1- Background:

Master's, PhD, Engineering students, or Post-Doc working on innovative research.

2- Individuals or teams (with at least one female researcher as lead). Teams with two female co-founders are strongly encouraged to apply.

3- Women eager to develop early-stage, research-based project ideas

Eligibility Criteria

1- Tunisian women scientists and researchers.

2- Commitment to be present in the workshop and commit to the mentorship.

3- English Proficiency

Selection Criteria

1- Scientific Background: Affiliated with universities or research centers and a strong background.

2- Entrepreneurial Interest: Interested in exploring the entrepreneurial path and learning how to transform their findings into ventures.

3- Idea Status: Have a research-based project idea or a desire to develop one.



APPLICATION STRUCTURE

- 1 Personal Information of the female scientist
- 2 Knowledge Assessment of Entrepreneurship
- 3 Idea and Project Development if Applicable
- 4 Motivation
 - Solo Motivation
 - OR
 - Team Motivation
- 5 Commitment and Other
 - Solo Commitment
 - OR
 - Team Commitment





PROGRAM TIMELINE

Submission Deadline	October 5th, 2025, 29.59 GMT+1
Announcement	October 10th, 2025
Bootcamp	October 17th, 18th, 19th 2025
Post-Bootcamp Mentorship	October 27th - November 21st, 2025
Final Closing	End of November, 2025

BRAINX PARTNERS

Tunisia 2025 Edition





BRAINX TUNISIA'23

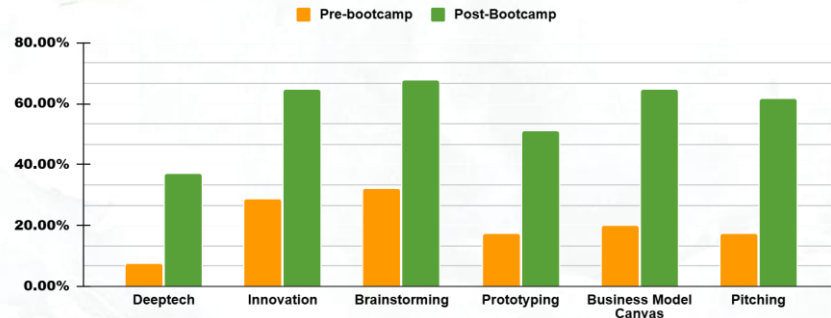
80 Scientists **70% Female Representation**

100% Will recommend the program to other scientists

15% Felt more ready to launch their project in less than a year



Pre-bootcamp and Post-Bootcamp Learning Assessment





BRAINX UGANDA'24

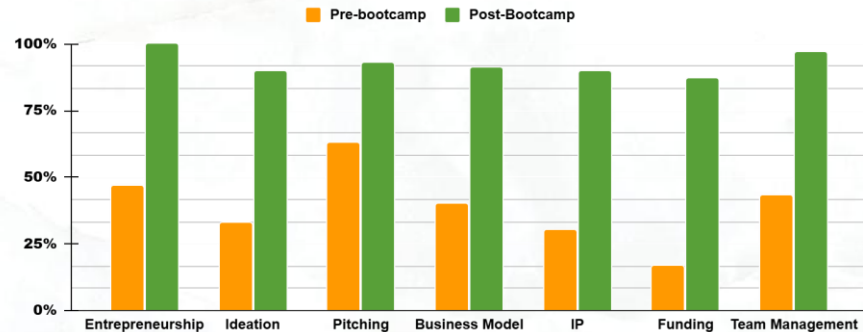
35 Scientists **30% Female Representation**

100% Will recommend the program to other scientists

75% strongly willing to translate their research into businesses within 3 years



Pre-bootcamp and Post-Bootcamp Learning Assessment





BRAINX

PROGRAM TEAM



Cherine Charfeddine
Project Lead/ BRAIN
Ambassador



Fatma Ben Amar
BRAIN Program Manager



Yesmine Mansar
BRAIN Senior Program
Manager





Empowering Scientists,
Igniting Africa's Innovation.





MEPI



THANK YOU

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