SVLink is a UCSC program offered to support both UCSC and other UC entrepreneurship and technology transfer, and in doing so ensure the availability of entrepreneurship opportunities to under-represented Californians, as part of the university’s service mission to the State. As a result, eligible startup companies/founders include groups that fit under the following categories, as determined and approved by UCSC:

**UCSC-Affiliated companies:** these are participating startup companies whose founders, principals, directors and/or officers (at the time of application) include at least one current UCSC student (undergraduate or graduate programs only), faculty*, full-time staff†, post doc, visiting scholar or alumnus, or a company that holds a standing commercial license for a UCSC technology.

**UC-Affiliated companies:** these are participating startup companies whose founders, principals, directors and/or officers (at the time of application) include at least one current UC (campus other than UC Santa Cruz) student (undergraduate or graduate programs only), faculty*, full-time staff†, post doc, visiting scholar or alumnus, or a company that holds a standing commercial license for a UC technology (from a campus other than UC Santa Cruz).

**Special Group:** these are participating UCSC-affiliated and UC-affiliated startup companies whose founders, principals, directors and/or officers (at the time of application) include at least one disadvantaged individual (e.g., a person who is facing or has faced significant challenges or barriers to entrepreneurship due to lack of ability to take financial risk, lack of access to or knowledge of traditional sources of funding or unemployment or underemployment). Special Group companies also include startup companies that are engaged in the development of a scientific or technological innovation for economically disadvantaged communities or otherwise disadvantaged individuals (as described above). For these purposes, economic disadvantage should be substantiated through a showing of economic depression or blight.

**Unaffiliated:** these are participating startup companies that are not affiliated with UCSC or other UC campus in the capacity defined above. Unaffiliated companies are encouraged to apply with the understanding that participation under this category will be kept to a minimum and secondary to the participation of UCSC-affiliated and UC-affiliated startup companies. Participating companies under this category will be required to actively participate in the University community, through educational activities and research collaborations.

**IN ALL CASES:**
- **A startup company** means a company that will be incorporated‡ within 10 days from the date of being accepted to be a member of SVLink, or has been incorporated for less than four years and employs less than 10 people and has average annual revenue of less than $1M. Failure of successful applicants to incorporate in time will result in the automatic forfeiture of their SVLink membership opportunity.
- **Consideration will be given to Special Groups in the application review and selection process.**
- **All applicants are required to demonstrate their need for an office located in the Silicon Valley in order to establish and grow their business.**

UC Santa Cruz reserves the sole and absolute right and discretion to select all, some or none of the applicants for SVLink membership.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** - For any questions related to the SVLink program, please email IATCprograms@ucsc.edu, or contact Michele Chamberlin at 831-459-4229.

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* As defined under Academic Titles in the Campus Academic Personnel Manual - [https://apo.ucsc.edu/policy/capm/#Faculty](https://apo.ucsc.edu/policy/capm/#Faculty).
† Staff who are less than full time are welcome to apply for a case-by-case assessment and determination of eligibility.
‡ Company is a duly formed C-Corporation (not LLC), registered in a state of the United States or the District of Columbia.