



AcceleratorApp
Software for Accelerator & Incubators

2026 EDITION

AI for Program Operations

What the AI actually does, how to set it up, and what to watch for.

A practical guide for program managers implementing AI across applications, mentorship, and content in AcceleratorApp.

Your program is full of work that should not require human judgment.

Sorting 300 applications to find the 40 worth reading closely. Reconstructing context before a mentor session that started without a briefing. Translating a form field into three languages after editing one word.

These tasks require time and attention. They do not require judgment. That is the distinction AI is useful for in a program context.

01 • SCORING

AI application scoring

Scores applications against your thesis before a human reviewer opens them.

02 • MENTORS

Mentor intelligence

Turns call transcripts into recaps and relationship insights.

03 • CONTENT

AI translation

Translates your forms and content in a single click.

THE ONE RULE THAT APPLIES TO ALL OF IT

Every AI output is advisory. Your team makes every final decision on every applicant and every action. The AI does the work that should not need human judgment so your team can focus on the work that does.

The AI evaluator scores every application against your thesis before a human reviewer opens it.

It reads each application, scores it against your evaluation form's criteria, and explains its reasoning per question. Your reviewers open a ranked shortlist with rationale attached instead of a cold pile of hundreds.

SETTING UP THE EVALUATOR

- ☐ Write your funnel thesis: what a strong applicant looks like for this program specifically
- ☐ Run the built-in Prompt Coach on your thesis draft and act on its feedback
- ☐ Add evaluation form instructions (WAGE: Weight, Attention, Gradient, Edge cases)
- ☐ Assign the AI evaluator to a round the same way you assign a human reviewer
- ☐ Watch applications get scored as they arrive on the application overview

THE THESIS IS THE ENGINE

The evaluator scores against what you write in the thesis. A vague thesis produces vague scores. A thesis with specific signals, anti-signals, and calibration anchors produces evaluations your team can act on. The built-in coach helps you get there before you assign the evaluator.

When an applicant is not advancing, the AI drafts tailored feedback grounded in their specific application.

Your team reviews the draft and sends it. Every founder learns why their application did not progress, instead of receiving a generic form rejection.

REJECTION FEEDBACK CHECKLIST

- ☐ Review the AI-drafted feedback before sending, not after
- ☐ Edit for tone and accuracy: the draft is a starting point, not a final email
- ☐ Confirm the feedback references the specific criteria the application did not meet
- ☐ Send from a named team member, not a no-reply address

HOW YOU REJECT MATTERS

In a small ecosystem, how you reject matters as much as who you accept. A founder who receives specific feedback about why they did not progress is far more likely to reapply with a stronger application and to recommend your program to others.

The Prompt Coach scores your thesis against a framework called FIT: Focus, Indicators, Thresholds.

F

Focus. Who this funnel is for: sector, stage, geography, founder profile. Specific is better. A thesis that excludes nothing cannot discriminate.

I

Indicators. Positive signals to look for and anti-signals to weigh against. Both are required. A thesis with only positive signals produces overly generous scores.

T

Thresholds. What excellent, acceptable, and weak look like for your funnel. Without calibration anchors, the AI's notion of great may diverge from your team's.

A STRONG THESIS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Names the sector and stage specifically
- ☐ Lists at least two positive signals and two anti-signals
- ☐ Includes a calibration sentence: what excellent vs weak looks like
- ☐ Does not contain marketing language (innovative, transformative, world-class)
- ☐ Scored at 7 or above by the Prompt Coach before assignment

ANTI-SIGNALS CARRY THE WEIGHT

Anti-signals matter as much as positive signals. A thesis that only describes what good looks like produces scores that make everyone seem acceptable. Adding what specifically disqualifies an applicant is what gives the evaluator discriminating power.

AI mentor intelligence turns your mentor call transcripts into recaps, action items, and a picture of how each mentor-startup relationship is developing.

Import a transcript from Zoom or any other tool. The AI produces a session summary, the action items that came out of it, and the discussion points that were raised but never resolved.

SETTING UP MENTOR INTELLIGENCE

- ☐ Run a mentor session using Zoom or any meeting tool
- ☐ Export or copy the transcript after the session
- ☐ Import the transcript into the session record in AcceleratorApp
- ☐ Review the AI-generated summary, action items, and missed points
- ☐ Use the relationship summary to direct mentorship where it adds value

THE PRE-SESSION RECAP CHANGES THE DYNAMIC

Before a mentor's next session, the AI generates a synthesis of everything that has happened: follow-up todos, missed discussion points, and focus areas for today. The mentor walks in prepared instead of spending the first fifteen minutes reconstructing context.

Across sessions, the AI builds a picture of how each mentor-startup relationship is developing.

J. Okafor × Meridian Bio

5 SESSIONS · 11 WEEKS

WHAT THEY HAVE HELPED WITH

Pricing model redesign, first enterprise sales motion, board deck narrative.

WHAT HAS IMPROVED

Sales cycle assumptions now grounded in two live pilots rather than estimates.

OUTSTANDING RISKS

Hiring plan unresolved across 3 sessions. No technical co-lead identified.

UNTOUCHED EXPERTISE AREAS

Mentor has scaled a 40-person finance team. Not yet applied to this startup.

USING THE RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY

- ☐ Check relationship summaries at the mid-program mark, not only at the end
- ☐ Surface pairings where key expertise areas have never been used
- ☐ Flag relationships where risks have been outstanding across multiple sessions
- ☐ Use suggested next actions as conversation starters, not directives

THE MOST ACTIONABLE SIGNAL

Expertise gaps are the most actionable signal. When the summary shows that a mentor with deep GTM experience has never covered GTM with their assigned startup, that is a concrete thing to address in the next session.

When you create a form field or content in AcceleratorApp, the AI translates it into your target languages in a click.

No separate translation pass, no rebuilding the form for each language, no keeping versions in sync by hand after every edit.

SETTING UP TRANSLATION

- ☐ Configure your target languages in incubator settings
- ☐ When creating new form fields, use the translate action to generate versions
- ☐ When editing an existing field, re-translate the updated version rather than editing each language manually
- ☐ Preview the translated form before publishing to check context and tone
- ☐ For high-stakes fields, have a native speaker review the translation before launch

THE HIDDEN PROBLEM

Translation drift is the hidden problem. Programs that build translations manually end up with old versions in some languages and current versions in others. Translating from the source on every edit is what keeps your forms accurate across all languages.

AI capabilities are useful when working well and visible when they are not. Here is what to monitor.

FOR THE AI EVALUATOR

- ☐ Review score distributions early: if everything scores 7-8 of 10, the thesis may lack discriminating power
- ☐ Check that per-question reasoning matches your team's read on strong vs weak applications
- ☐ Re-run the Prompt Coach if you edit the thesis; scores from a changed thesis are marked stale

FOR MENTOR INTELLIGENCE

- ☐ Check that session summaries capture the substance of calls accurately on early transcripts
- ☐ Use relationship summaries as a prompt for program check-ins, not a replacement for them

FOR TRANSLATION

- ☐ Have a native speaker review translated fields for key programs before launch
- ☐ Check that translated eligibility questions have the same meaning in context, not just literal accuracy

FIRST PASS, NOT LAST WORD

The AI is a first pass, not a last word. The value is speed and consistency, not infallibility. Your team's oversight of the outputs is what keeps the quality high.

The fastest way to see results is to start with one capability on one program.

WEEK 1	Write and coach your funnel thesis. Assign the AI evaluator to your next open application round.
WEEK 2	Review the first batch of AI scores with your evaluation team. Adjust the thesis or form instructions based on any patterns you see.
WEEK 3	Import the transcript from your next mentor session. Review the summary and share the pre-session recap with the mentor before their following call.
WEEK 4	Enable translation on one form. Preview the translated version before publishing.

ONE AT A TIME

Do not start all three at once. Starting with the AI evaluator on your largest program volume gives you the most immediate signal on quality and the fastest iteration loop on your thesis.

AcceleratorApp is a program management platform trusted by 200+ organizations across 6 continents, including German Accelerator, SparkLabs, MIT Design X, CGIAR, and Yale.

It runs the full program lifecycle in one connected system: application intake, AI application scoring, AI applicant coaching, multi-stage review, mentor matching and AI mentor intelligence, cohort management, milestone tracking, events, community, AI reporting, and AI translation.

HIGHLIGHTS

2,000,000+ applications processed

6,000+ program managers

ISO 27001 certified

GDPR compliant

Live in 1 to 2 weeks

Full migration included

Plans from \$499 per month

GET STARTED

Book a demo: acceleratorapp.co/en/demo

See pricing: acceleratorapp.co/en/pricing

Contact: support@acceleratorapp.co

THREE AI CAPABILITIES, ONE SYSTEM

- AI application scoring against your funnel thesis
- Tailored rejection feedback for every applicant
- The Prompt Coach for thesis and form instructions
- AI mentor intelligence: recaps and relationship summaries
- Pre-session recaps synthesized across sessions
- One-click AI translation for forms and content
- AI reporting across the program lifecycle

Every capability is advisory. The AI does the work that should not need human judgment so your team can focus on the work that does.



AcceleratorApp
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Ready to see AI mapped to your program?

A 30-minute demo across applications, mentorship,
and content, tailored to how your program runs.

Book a demo · acceleratorapp.co/demo

See pricing · acceleratorapp.co/pricing

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