



Entrepreneurial Thinking @UCalgary

Community Guidebook

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Table of Contents

Innovation Service Organizations at UCalgary	3
Innovation Service Organizations Off Campus	4
Events & Workshops at UCalgary.....	6
Hackathons & Challenges at UCalgary	7
Academic Programs at UCalgary	8
Entrepreneurial Thinking Programs at UCalgary	9
Entrepreneurship Programs at UCalgary	9
Learning Programs Beyond Campus.....	11
Entrepreneurship & Prototyping Spaces at UCalgary	12
Innovation Services and Supports.....	13
General	13
Advising, Consulting and Resources.....	13
Funding.....	14

Innovation Service Organizations at UCalgary

BLG Business Venture Clinic

Supported by Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, the BLG Business Venture Clinic is a student-run, pro bono legal clinic at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Law that provides free legal information to Calgary's entrepreneurs.

Students at the BLG Business Venture Clinic can draft memos on topics such as early round financing, the pros, and cons of different business structures, employment issues, intellectual property and possible sources of liability.

Learn more: <http://www.businessventureclinic.ca/>

Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies

Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) Rockies is a unique milestone-based mentoring program for massively scalable science-based companies. It brings together many of the region's most experienced entrepreneurs, investors, and scientists from diverse fields including energy, healthcare, software and hardware, industrials and clean technology. CDL startups work with these mentors to sharpen objectives, prioritize time and resources, raise capital, and engage with experts working on the frontiers of research.

Learn more: <https://www.creativedestructionlab.com/locations/calgary/>

Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Are you interested in taking academic courses that will make a real difference in your career? Want to participate in exciting extracurricular activities that will introduce you to new people and opportunities?

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/hunter-centre>

Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking

The Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking is an interdisciplinary nucleus for activities that will support entrepreneurial student experiences, enable faculty to lead in innovation and expand a growing community of entrepreneurial and innovative thinkers.

From interdisciplinary hackathons, competitions, resources, workshops delivered by experienced entrepreneurs to mentorship, there's a lot happening in the Hunter Hub to help build your ideas to reality.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/>

Innovate Calgary

Innovate Calgary is the innovation transfer and business incubator centre for the University of Calgary. As part of the Office of the Vice-President (Research) portfolio, they work closely with the Research Service Office to help bridge the gap between discovery and creating economic and societal impact. From

ideation to commercialization, Innovate Calgary has successfully supported the innovation-driven research community for over 30 years.

Their knowledge transfer and commercialization services include, but are not limited to:

- Intellectual Property Management
- Licensing or Company Formation
- Technology/Innovation Marketing
- Supporting Research Partnerships
- Accelerator Programs

Learn more: <https://www.innovatecalgary.com/>

Trico Foundational Social Entrepreneurship Centre

This new centre will build social enterprise education, support curriculum development and fuel teaching excellence.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/tricofoundation>

Ward of the 21st Century (W21C)

W21C is a research and innovation initiative based in the University of Calgary (UCalgary) and the Calgary Zone of Alberta Health Services (AHS). W21C conducts health systems research with the overarching mandate to improve patient safety and quality of care.

They offer:

- Direct access to clinical spaces
 - Living Laboratory – a hospital medical teaching unit that allows for testing in an actual patient ward
 - Research and Innovation Centre – a place to pursue applied health research with commercial potential
- Research and simulation capabilities
- An interdisciplinary team that can look at your research question from a variety of perspectives

Learn more: <https://www.w21c.org/>

Innovation Service Organizations Off Campus

Alberta Innovates

AI supports the entire innovation spectrum – from the generation of new ideas through applied testing to commercialization or end-use. They provide funding programs, advice, connections, technical expertise and applied research services to stimulate and grow research and innovation across Alberta.

Learn more: <https://albertainnovates.ca/>

Alberta Women Entrepreneurs

AWE is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enabling women to build successful businesses. It provides unique programs and services to women at all stages of business through advising, financing, mentoring, and network development.

Learn more: <https://www.awebusiness.com/>

Business Link

Business Link is Alberta's entrepreneurial hub. They are a nonprofit organization that helps people navigate the steps toward starting their own businesses. They provide one-on-one support and guidance, market research, access to experts, training, networking opportunities, and specialized support for Indigenous entrepreneurs.

Learn more: <https://businesslink.ca/>

Calgary Innovation Coalition

The Calgary Innovation Coalition (CIC) is a group of organizations in the Calgary region that support innovation-driven entrepreneurs, startups, and enterprises. This collective presents a single vision and voice regarding the priorities of Calgary's innovation community, a unique model for collaboration in Alberta's innovation ecosystem.

Learn more: <https://www.calgaryinnovationcoalition.ca/>

Futurpreneur

Futurpreneur Canada supports young entrepreneurs with up to \$60,000* in financing, an expert business mentor for up to two years, and resources to help you plan, manage and grow your business.

Learn more: <https://www.calgaryinnovationcoalition.ca/>

Harvest Venture Builders

Harvest helps remove the barriers to launching and scaling up ventures. Companies and founders that partner with Harvest gain access to world-class builder services and industry experts who know what it takes to successfully launch and scale new ventures.

Learn more: <https://www.harvest.builders>

Platform Calgary

Platform Calgary programs are offered throughout the year and require an application or registration to participate. Read about our programs and find one to support where you are in your entrepreneurial journey.

Learn more: <https://www.platformcalgary.com/>

Rainforest AB

Rainforest Alberta is an informal organization of people working together to improve Alberta's innovation ecosystem. They want Albertans to know that they don't have to move away to invent, prosper, and move their ideas forward. To that end, their goal is to grow the same invisible infrastructure that underlies successful tech communities like Silicon Valley, right here in Alberta.

Learn more: <https://rainforestab.ca/>

Startup Calgary

Startup Calgary creates opportunities for entrepreneurs and startups to connect and collide, helping your ideas become reality. With their knowledge, know-how and connections, and a big "can do" attitude, Startup Calgary will guide and support you on your entrepreneurial journey, pointing you to what you need when you need it.

Learn more: <https://www.startupcalgary.ca/>

Events & Workshops at UCalgary

Hunter Centre Speaker Series

The Hunter Centre Speaker Series is an ongoing series of interactive dialogues showcasing Calgary's entrepreneurial leadership. The series provides students, faculty and alumni, and the Calgary business community the opportunity to expand their networks, address real-life entrepreneurial challenges, learn from the personal experiences of business innovators and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit in Calgary.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/hunter-centre/community-engagement/speaker-series>

Innovate Calgary Webinars

Innovate Calgary has a variety of webinars available, including the following series:

- Designing Social Impact Series
- Tools for Entrepreneurs Series
- Drug Repurposing Series
- Life Sciences webinars

Learn more: <https://innovatecalgary.com/webinars/>

Sustainability and Social Innovation Fair

Students, post docs, staff and faculty are invited to learn how changemakers in our community are solving key problems. Attendees will connect with community and resources from across campus in an interactive and informative virtual event. Learn how you can leave a lasting impact on our world during your academic career in 2021!

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/get-engaged/sustainability-and-social-innovation>

UCalgary Tech Fest

Tech Fest invites post-secondary students citywide to connect with Calgary's tech sector during a virtual conference featuring industry networking, hands-on learning activities, and inspiring talks from community leaders who are re-shaping the landscape of economic opportunity in our city.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/discover-entrepreneurial-thinking/community-events/ucalgarytechfest>

Virtual Innovation Fair

Students, staff, and faculty are invited to the UCalgary *Virtual* Innovation Fair to learn how innovators in our community are tackling and solving key problems in society. Learn about the innovation community and connect with resources from across campus in an interactive and informative half-day virtual event via Zoom. Attendees will network with innovation leaders from across campus, and learn how engaging with innovation can transform your academic career from members of our community. Discover how you can become a part of this growing community during the upcoming academic year.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/get-engaged/virtual-innovation-fair>

Hackathons & Challenges at UCalgary

Calgary Hacks

This 24 hour sprint-style, competitive programming contest is designed to promote creativity, collaboration, and innovative thinking. Groups (1-5) will be tasked with developing a solution to one of 3 challenges. \$12,500 is available to be won!

Learn more: <https://calgaryhacks.ca/>

Calgary Interprofessional Challenge

The Calgary Interprofessional Challenge is a fast-paced, exhilarating hackathon style event using interdisciplinary teamwork to build great ideas! Take part in a unique opportunity to collaborate, innovate, and create real-world solutions for better health and wellness in a cutting-edge setting, while collaborating with like-minded peers and professionals from across the University of Calgary.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/get-engaged/CIC>

Global Community Challenge

The Global Community Challenge YYC (GCC) brings students together into trans-disciplinary and cross-cultural teams to work with local organizations in Calgary, learn about the challenges they are facing and identify potential solutions that could have a global impact. Students develop skills in teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and communication while building intercultural capacity and positioning themselves to become innovation catalysts for meaningful change in real-world challenges.

Learn more: <https://ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad/global-community-challenge-yyc>

Innovation 4 Health (I4H)

Innovation 4 Health is a catalyst for innovation. There are many challenges just waiting to be solved, but often healthcare professionals, caregivers and patients do not have the resources, expertise, or time to address them. On the other hand, there are many skilled individuals that are eager to innovate, but don't know where to start. The I4H mission is to connect innovators with real-world challenges in human and veterinary healthcare to address inefficiencies and barriers to wellness for all.

Learn more: <https://www.innovation4health.com/>

Telus Innovation Challenge

This one-of-a-kind national event is designed to bring Canadian innovations to market. Participants will attend training workshops and receive mentorship from senior executives and industry experts in advance of preparing a proposal and a presentation of their work to judges. The winning team will receive a \$100,000 prize from TELUS.

Learn more: <https://schulich.ucalgary.ca/TELUSinnovation>

World's Challenge Challenge

This innovative competition is an exciting way for UCalgary students to engage with other students from around the world to address global challenges from a wide variety of viewpoints. By participating in this program, students will develop their critical thinking skills, global mindset, leadership, research, and presentation skills.

Learn more: <https://ucalgary.ca/international/study-abroad/worlds-challenge-challenge>

Academic Programs at UCalgary

Embedded Certificate in Entrepreneurial Thinking

This certificate provides undergraduate students from degree paths across the UCalgary campus with an entrepreneurial toolkit. Students will work towards the certificate by taking courses that meet prerequisite requirements. Students are encouraged to add the embedded certificate as early as possible to ensure appropriate advising and support while progressing through their studies.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/embedded-certificate-in-entrepreneurial-thinking>

Entrepreneurship Option for Graduate Students

This academic option equips graduate students with the fundamental skills of entrepreneurial thinking that will allow them to become successful, real world innovators. It features two courses that provide graduate students from all faculties with hands-on experience to discover business opportunities, determine their feasibility, and build strong business models to transform their ideas into ventures.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/hunter-centre/EI-Option>

Entrepreneurial Thinking Programs at UCalgary

CATALYZE

The CATALYZE program supports social ventures to scale impact and revenue. Students gain experiential learning by being matched with a venture while receiving training and mentorship from key partners including MRU Changemaker Studio, Platform Calgary, Social Impact Lab, and the Trico Charitable Foundation.

Learn more: <https://innovatecalgary.com/social-enterprise-incubator/>

Map the System

Map the System is a one-of-a-kind challenge that invites students to use a systems-thinking approach to demonstrate a deep understanding of a pressing social or environmental challenge. Participating students and post-docs will have access to workshops, coaching and resources throughout the program to help them develop impactful projects. This culminates with a final competition in April where one winner will be selected to compete in the Canadian Finals.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/learn-entrepreneurial-thinking/co-curricular-programs/map-the-system>

PURE Awards

PURE makes it possible for students to work with on-campus experts to learn how research projects are developed, and how their results can contribute to new knowledge while solving problems in society. Students work over the summer on a research project with up to \$6,000 in financial support.

Learn more: <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/pure-awards>

UCeed Haskayne Student Fund

The UCeed Haskayne Student Fund is recruiting Fund Managers and Associates who will work together to make investments and manage a real-dollar portfolio while completing innovative coursework. Students receive a FNCE credit at the completion of your commitment with the UCeed Haskayne Student Fund.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/uceed-haskayne-student-fund>

Entrepreneurship Programs at UCalgary

Creative Destruction Lab Rockies Seed-Stage Program

This nine-month program is laser-focused to accelerate business growth. Highly successful entrepreneurs and angel investors work with founders to break down complex business challenges and define objectives that are achieved in 8-week sprints. Through mentorship and financing opportunities, the CDL helps innovators transition their ideas from technology and science projects to high-growth companies.

Learn more: <https://haskayne.ucalgary.ca/cdl-rockies>

Launchpad

Launchpad is an experiential learning program offered by the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking and the Schulich School of Engineering. This program is designed to help UCalgary students and post-doctoral fellows learn how to transform an idea into a venture, and in the process develop in-demand career competencies relating to entrepreneurial thinking.

Through active participation across all of Launchpad's activities, students will:

- Acquire essential skills required to take an idea to prototype to product.
- Hone critical thinking skills required to redefine problems and consider different perspectives.

Learn more: <https://ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/launchpad>

Life Science Innovation Fellowship

A full-time, two-year program that provides experiential learning in research and development (R&D) commercialization/startup creation for life sciences entrepreneurs. Offers up to \$200k in startup funding, including a \$55k/year stipend for the fellow.

Learn more: <https://innovatecalgary.com/life-sciences-fellowship/>

SPARK Calgary

Do you want to move your idea into clinical practice? SPARK your digital health project forward as part of this globally recognized program. Successful applicants receive group advisory from industry experts, educational seminars and workshops, project management support and in-kind research services through W21C.

Learn more: <https://www.w21c.org/portfolio/spark-calgary/>

Student Entrepreneurship Sprint

Do you have an idea for a product or solution? Are you eager to develop new skills and network beyond the classroom? This one-month sprint pays students to develop their idea and learn the basics of the Lean Startup method with access to online workshops, mentors, and peers from across Alberta.

Learn more: <https://www.platformcalgary.com/programs-and-events/entrepreneurship-sprint/>

TENET i2C

The TENET i2c program has provided funding and training to University of Calgary researchers, clinicians, postdocs, graduate students and staff to transform their health research into a commercial product. The resources provided to the participants equips them with the skills, knowledge, and industry contacts to pitch their ideas at a final event for a chance to win up to \$100,000 to commercialize their product.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/what-we-do/programs/teneti2c>

Learning Programs Beyond Campus

Startup 101

Join Startup Calgary and Platform Calgary for this introductory workshop that provides initial answers to the question “I have an idea, where do I start?” Their facilitators will guide you through the recommended steps to take when you have an early-stage idea you want to evaluate. You’ll walk away with an understanding of the roadmap ahead with examples of tools and resources that will help you start. This workshop is ideal for entrepreneurs with ideas that will leverage technology to achieve high-growth potential. It's not intended for small business owners, consultants or service providers.

<https://www.startupcalgary.ca/startup-calgary-events>

Junction

Junction is a 9-week residency program that helps startup entrepreneurs establish clear foundations for technology-driven businesses. Throughout the program, you will learn to develop and organize information that allows you to understand and articulate your company to anyone, clearly. As the program progresses, you will actively build a data room - an organized compilation of startup documents in a secure location - which acts as a backdrop to educate, inform, and understand all aspects of a startup business.

The program combines educational content with applied workshops and events to help your founding team work through various aspects of the business. In addition to foundational business issues, crucial topics for founders such as pitch coaching, building a board of advisors and mental wellness are integral parts of the Junction program. All programming supports the development of founders and focuses on building the company.

Learn more: <https://www.platformcalgary.com/programs-and-events/junction/>

150 Startups

Those chosen to represent their post-secondary institution as the most promising first-time entrepreneur participate in a summer skills development program. The skills development program starts with a Kick-off Weekend where students and aspiring entrepreneurs learn and apply the Lean Startup method and Ash Maurya’s Lean Canvas. The summer skills development program then continues with Lean Startups Challenges and twice-a-week web meetings.

Each school’s representative has the opportunity to compete for over \$50,000 in cash. The cash is made available through in a series of Lean Startup Challenges, regional pitch-offs and a final provincial pitch-off held during the Innovation Rodeo that runs the same week as the Calgary Stampede.

Learn more: <https://150startups.com/>

ATB X Accelerator

ATB X is loaded with experts, connections and community. They dive into topics of culture, marketing, sales, cash flow, finance, operations, and entrepreneur wellness. Delivered by businesses, for businesses for any industry in Alberta.

Learn more: <https://www.atb.com/business/accounts-and-services/entrepreneur-services/atb-x-accelerator/>

The Accelerator

The Accelerator is a Canadian seed accelerator that provides curriculum, services, mentors, and connections during two five-month programs each year.

Their goal is to get you through the first phase. This usually means getting you to the point where you've built something impressive enough to raise money on a larger scale. Then they can introduce you to later stage investors—or occasionally even acquirers.

Learn more: <https://www.theaccelerator.tech/>

District Ventures Accelerator

District Ventures Accelerator is an intensive learning experience designed to make you an expert in your business and growth strategy. Twice a year, they run two cohorts of innovative Canadian product companies in the food and beverage, and health and wellness categories. In addition to interactive classroom sessions, participants receive on-on-one guidance from industry experts and additional support from our network of mentors. Graduates of the accelerator program present their products at our virtual demo day and connect with our network of retailers, distributors, and investors.

Learn more: <https://www.districtventures.ca/programming/>

Entrepreneurship & Prototyping Spaces at UCalgary

Hunter Hub Collision Space

The Hunter Hub's campus location includes the Collision Space — a 2,500 sq. ft., multi-use venue where people can meet, participate and interact organically. Throughout the week the space is available for campus members to drop in, and often there will be events hosted in the space. It can accommodate up to 120 people and is located in the MacEwan Student Centre (MSC 171).

The Collision Space is bookable and available to the university and local community free of charge, except for costs associated with additional cleaning, damages or missing equipment.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/collision-space>

Life Sciences Innovation Hub

Activated by Innovate Calgary, the LSI Hub is a place where students, researchers, startups and growing companies can access a variety of resources to advance their life science-based company. The Life Sciences Innovation Hub supports research-intensive companies to deliver commercially-viable products and services to market, by providing access to infrastructure, expertise, and startup services.

Learn more: <https://innovatecalgary.com/life-sciences-innovation-hub/about-the-lsi-hub/>

Maker Multiplex Labs (M²)

The Maker Multiplex (M2) has just what you need to bring your ideas to life.

M2 was launched in 2018 to help grow the maker community on campus. They welcome a diverse community to use their labs, grow their skills with new technologies and experience the process of taking an idea to innovation. M2 includes a makerspace, 3D printer room, a metal and woodworking shop, a sound lab, a robotics and mechatronics lab, a welding shop and an arts and textiles room. M2 is open to all UCalgary students, faculty and staff.

Learn more: <https://schulich.ucalgary.ca/research/technical-equipment-and-services/maker-multiplex>

Lab NEXT

Lab NEXT features a makerspace, bookable collaboration rooms, open collaboration space, and high-performance computers.

Learn more: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/labnext>

Innovation Services and Supports

General

Connectica

Alberta's portal for connecting innovators to funding, facilities, and services.

Learn more: <https://connectica.ca/>

Advising, Consulting and Resources

Commercializing with Innovate Calgary

The Intellectual Property Policy of the University encourages researchers to commercialize their discoveries and offers researchers two options: i) Researchers can engage the services, including full management and financial support, of the University's innovation and commercialization service provider, Innovate Calgary, or ii) Researchers can proceed independently, utilizing their own resources, by completing certain documents through the Research Services Office.

Learn more: <https://innovatecalgary.com/forms/invention-disclosure-form/>

Legal Support through BLG Business Venture Clinic

The BLG Business Venture Clinic can assist you with your legal questions, and can help you draft shareholder agreements, non-disclosure agreements, licence agreements and articles of incorporation at no charge.

Learn more: <http://www.businessventureclinic.ca/>

One-on-One Small Business Guidance & Market Research Expertise

Business Link has a team of in-house startup experts can assist you via phone, email or live chat and answer your questions about financing options, licensing and registration, marketing and more.

Learn more: <https://businesslink.ca/what-we-do/your-small-business-startup-experts/>

Securities Regulation

There are a variety of ways in which an entrepreneur may obtain the capital needed to operate their business. As Alberta's securities regulator, the ASC focuses on providing insights into raising money through the sale of securities. If you are trading any of the broad array of products that constitute securities or derivatives, then securities law applies to you.

Learn more: <https://www.albertasecurities.com/small-business>

Technology Development Advisors

TDA's are senior business advisors who provide one-on-one guidance, community connections, and assist with identifying non-dilutive capital to support entrepreneurs and SMEs in technology or knowledge-based industries developing innovative technology.

Learn more: <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/technology-development-advisors/>

Funding

Alberta Innovates Micro-Voucher Program

The Micro Voucher Program encourages high potential, high growth SMEs with novel, promising technologies, strong management and a reasonably identified product/market fit to accelerate new product commercialization.

Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$10,000, paid directly to the service provider, to cover eligible expenses charged by the service provider.

Learn more: <https://albertainnovates.ca/programs/micro-voucher/>

Cannon-Lachapelle Award in Entrepreneurial Thinking

This award is for undergraduate students who embody entrepreneurial thinking. The successful applicant will demonstrate creativity and innovation in new ways of doing, helping, thinking and supporting the

University of Calgary campus community or society beyond. The award recipients will receive \$10,000 to support their entrepreneurial and academic efforts.

Learn more: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub/what-we-do/programs/Cannon-Lachapelle>

EO Global Student Entrepreneurship Awards

The Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) is the premier global competition for students who own and operate a business while attending college or university. Nominees compete against their peers from around the world in a series of local and/or national competitions in hopes to qualify for GSEA Finals.

Learn more: <https://gsea.org/apply/>

Futurpreneur Financing

Futurpreneur offers collateral-free loans of up to \$20,000 per business. If you need more financing, BDC may provide up to \$40,000.

Learn more: <https://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/get-started/financing-and-mentoring/>

UCEED

This pre-seed and seed funding program helps commercialize new technologies and accelerates UCalgary startup companies. Qualifying ventures can receive an investment of up to \$300,000 for UCalgary-based child and health enterprises.

Learn more: <https://ucalgary.ca/uceed>