The UCalgary innovation ecosystem supports our researchers and students with infrastructure, programs, and opportunities to advance evidence-based research into real-world solutions.

Research and Innovation

Research and discovery are the foundation of innovation, and UCalgary innovation is creating positive outcomes and value for our communities. We are accelerating our innovation efforts through transdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial thinking.

Transdisciplinary scholarship at UCalgary connects researchers and community to address challenges across five areas: cities and societies, digital worlds, health and life, energy futures, and democracy, justice, and sustainability.

Entrepreneurial thinking is a tool that supports our research community to take initiative, exchange knowledge across disciplines, learn from experience, and resourcefully engage with creative and cultural literacy.

Ahead of Tomorrow

With *Ahead of Tomorrow*, UCalgary's 2023-30 Strategic Plan, we are harnessing the power of research and innovation to tackle society's biggest challenges and maximize our research impact.

Making an Impact

As Canada's entrepreneurial university, UCalgary is attracting top talent and investment from around the world with $588M in externally funded research revenue in 2023-24 and $632M in 2024-25.

UCalgary is Canada's youngest top five research university[1] and member of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities.

A top startup creator, UCalgary has launched 105 research-based companies, more than any other university in Canada in the last six years[2].

UCalgary is a Top 100 university ranked for entrepreneurs by PitchBook. Since 2014, UCalgary has produced 189 founders with an undergraduate degree who have raised a collective $3.4B in capital[3].

1. Re$earch Infosource Inc. Top 50 Research Universities in Canada list.
2. 2018 - 2024. Association of University Technology Manager's Canadian Licensing Activity Surveys.
3. 2025 PitchBook University Global Undergraduate Rankings

Robust Ecosystem of Innovation Supports

Productive economies are anchored by great research universities. Our innovation ecosystem is here to help Calgary's economy grow, prosper, and diversify. Facilities and programming support all stages of the innovation and entrepreneurial journey, including the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking and the Creative Destruction Lab – Rockies.

Creating Community Impact through Social Innovation

Not all research-based innovations lead to a commercialization pathway. There is a myriad of support available within the UCalgary innovation ecosystem to connect academic expertise with community members to address social change or launch a social enterprise.

ucalgary.ca/innovation

Innovate Calgary

The innovation transfer and business incubator for the university, Innovate Calgary works closely with researchers, faculty, and students from ideation to commercialization. innovatecalgary.com

XPRIZE Canada Hub

XPRIZE has established the XPRIZE Canada Hub at UCalgary, the first global hub outside the United States and the only hub location in Canada. The XPRIZE Canada Hub at UCalgary is connected to the XPRIZE global network, fostering collaboration, advancing groundbreaking solutions, and empowering Canadian innovators to help play a key role in solving the world's most pressing challenges. ucalgary.ca/xprize-hub

University Innovation Quarter

UCalgary is creating physical space dedicated to innovation and creativity with the University Innovation Quarter (UIQ). UIQ will help build, develop, and scale solutions, policies, research, and inventions, while creating a complete ecosystem that brings community, researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors together to foster and support the innovation process in Calgary. uiqcalgary.com

Quantum City

Quantum City is building the future of quantum innovation by bridging the gap between quantum technology and real-world solutions in key economic sectors such as agriculture, energy, finance and telecommunications. By developing world-class infrastructure and fostering top talent and expertise, Quantum City supports the development of a vibrant economic and scientific hub based in Calgary. io.ucalgary.ca/quantum-city

UCeed

UCeed is the largest philanthropic venture capital fund run by a Canadian university with $30M in assets under management as of September 2025. This series of early-stage investment funds, backed by philanthropic support, accelerate early-stage startup companies to advance problem-solving research, create jobs and fuel the economy. UCeed funds, trains, mentors, and supports startup companies during the critical transitional stage between innovation demonstration and commercialization. ucalgary.ca/uceed

Now Innovating: a research-to-impact series

Now Innovating shares the stories of UCalgary researchers who have moved their discoveries forward and their innovation journeys to implementation and impact. This digital series aims to inspire researchers and community partners to take new steps toward transforming discoveries into solutions, products, and services. ucalgary.ca/now-innovating

ucalgary.ca/innovation