

A list of key project team members with brief biographies that explain the capability of your team to pursue your idea. If you have not yet found team members that fulfill the skillsets needed to carry out your innovation by the pre-proposal deadline, note in this section how you plan to recruit the expertise that will be integral to your project. (About ½ page in length)

4. Team Bios

A summary of your innovative idea (e.g. project service, or product, how it works, and its intended impact. Provide a brief description of how your project will look in its first year of implementation, and why it is different from other approaches. If you expect to encounter implementation challenges, briefly explain how you will address these in your approach. Note that judges are instructed to consider project idea is. (About 1 page in length)

3. Proposed Innovation

Overview of any existing services, programs, interventions or products that have been designed or implemented to address this problem. Where applicable, discuss the limitations of these approaches and the gaps that still exist. (About ½ – 1 page in length)

2. Existing Solutions

A description of the problem or need that your project will address, which communicates your understanding of relevant research/statistics on the problem. (About ½ – 1 page in length)

1. Problem Statement

A single PDF document must be prepared using Pre-proposals should be submitted as a single PDF, prepared using Times New Roman 12-point font, single-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Pre-Proposals can be a maximum of 3-pages, and must contain the following content (though the specific structure and flow are flexible).

Please visit bigideas.berkeley.edu to see official rules, category descriptions, and eligibility

Did't have a chance to come to office hours but want a past winner or graduate student advisor to read over your pre-proposal? Stop by with a draft of your pre-proposal and we'll give you last minute advice and help you fine-tune your writing!

Big Ideas Editing Blitz

Our graduate student advisors love talking to students about their project ideas, answering questions about the contest, and helping students craft effective pre-proposals. Stop by during their drop-in hours, listed on the website, or email bigideas@berkeley.edu to schedule an appointment for another time.

Graduate Student Advisor Office Hours

Innovators@Cal is an exciting event that fosters idea generation and collaboration across the entire UC Berkeley campus

Innovators@Cal

Looking for students to join your team or want feedback on your project idea? At the Ideas Generation Dinner, each team will have the opportunity to give a 2 minute pitch of their idea. Following pitches, teams will network with students interested in joining their teams and discuss project plans over dinner.

Idea Generation Dinner

Learn more about how to effectively craft a pre-proposal at our workshops, and let us guide you through the process of drafting a pre-proposal.

Pre-proposal Writing & Advising Workshops

Learn more about the Big Ideas contest and join us for inspiring talks from past Big Ideas winners! For information about scheduled speakers, visit our website.

Info Sessions & Speaker Series

Big Ideas's Fall events support students interested in submitting pre-proposal applications. Please join us at one of the following events:

RESOURCES

CONTEST RULES

- At least one member of each team must be a matriculated student at an eligible university to enter the contest.
- Big Ideas projects must be student initiated and student led. Faculty, staff, and external partners may play an advisory role for student teams.
- Student teams may submit an application to only one category. If an application is submitted to more than one category, only the first submission received will be reviewed. One student may participate in more than one project team as long as each team submits a unique pre-proposal application.
- Student teams cannot seek funding from Big Ideas for projects that have previously won a Big Ideas award, unless they are submitting a proposal in the "Scaling Up Big Ideas" category. Teams that have won a Scaling Up award in the past are not eligible to reapply.
- The Team Lead (primary applicant) will be the main contact person for all Big Ideas communications and must be a matriculated student at an eligible campus at the time of the pre-proposal deadline. The Team Lead has final authority in determining prize disbursement options.

Please note that each contest category has specific rules and eligibility requirements. For more information, applicants should carefully review the description for the contest to which they are applying.

Prizes will only be awarded for high-quality submissions. Decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal.

CATEGORIES

Be sure to check your school's eligibility at bigideas.berkeley.edu!

Art & Social Change
Energy & Resource Alternatives
Financial Inclusion
Food System Innovations
Global Health
Improving Student Life
Information Technology for Society
Mobiles for Reading
Scaling Up Big Ideas

PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

HOW BIG IDEAS WORKS

The Big Ideas contest is split into two rounds: a pre-proposal round in the fall and a full proposal round in the spring.

Round 1: Pre-proposal

Eligible students are invited to submit a 3-page pre-proposal by Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 12PM (PST) via the bigideas.berkeley.edu website. Judges will select 5 to 8 teams in each category to continue on to the full proposal round of the contest in the spring. All pre-proposal teams will receive detailed feedback from the judges, regardless of whether or not they are selected as finalists. Pre-proposal applicants will be notified mid-December 2015 if they have been selected as a finalist.

Round 2: Full Proposal

Finalist teams will have the opportunity to develop and refine their pre-proposals into 15-page "full proposals" by expanding on the ideas presented in their pre-proposals, editing their proposals based on judges' feedback, and refining their project ideas through collaboration with a Big Ideas mentor (an industry professionals matched to finalists based on mentors' content knowledge and areas of strength). From the finalist pool, judges will select between 2 and 5 award winners in each category.

Pitch Day & People's Choice Awards

Finalist teams can earn additional prize money via 2 additional avenues:

People's Choice Video Contest: All non-finalist and finalist teams will be invited in the spring to submit a 2-minute video about their project to the People's Choice Contest. Voting for this contest is open to the public, and 1 winner will receive an additional \$2500 award.

Grand Prize Pitch Day: Select finalist teams will be invited to attend the Big Ideas Pitch Day in May, where teams pitch their project ideas to a panel of judges. Judges will then select Grand Prize winners to receive an additional award.

Awards Celebration: Big Ideas contest winners will celebrate with friends, family, and Big Ideas affiliates



2015-16 **BIG IDEAS** CONTEST

SEPTEMBER

9/9: Info Session

6:30pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive

Learn more about the goals, timeline, and categories in the 2015-16 Big Ideas contest

9/29: Info Session

6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive

Learn more about the goals, timeline, and categories in the 2015-16 Big Ideas contest

OCTOBER

10/7: Pre-Proposal Writing Workshop

6:30pm PST | B100 Blum Hall
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive

Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal

10/14: Idea Generation Dinner

6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall

Looking for new teammates or feedback on your idea? Teams will have the opportunity to give a 2 min pitch on their project. Following presentations, teams can network with students interested in joining their teams and discuss project plans over dinner

10/13: Online Info Session for Remote Teams

3:00pm PST | Google Hangout
Live stream link: bit.do/ideaslive

Learn more about the goals, timeline, and categories open to students from campuses other than UC Berkeley

10/19: Innovators@Cal

Time and Location TBD

Innovators@Cal is an exciting event that fosters idea generation and collaboration across the entire UC Berkeley campus

10/28: Pre-Proposal Advising Workshop

6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall

(More info will be sent for remote teams!)

Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal

11/10: Editing Blitz

6:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall

(More info will be sent for remote teams!)
Big Ideas Advisors will be available to provide last minute feedback on your proposals

NOVEMBER

PRE-PROPOSAL DEADLINE

NOVEMBER 12TH 2015 BY 12PM PST

DECEMBER

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

JANUARY

1/24: Final Round Kickoff Event

5:00pm PST | B100 Blum Hall

Teams and mentors will learn about the expectations of the mentorship period and the structure and goals for the final round

FEBRUARY

2/17: Full Proposal Writing Workshop

B100 Blum Hall

Get guidance and feedback about how to effectively craft your full proposal

3/7: Editing Blitz

B100 Blum Hall

Big Ideas Advisors will be available to provide last minute feedback on your proposals

MARCH

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE

MARCH 9TH 2016 BY 12PM PST

APRIL

4/27: Grand Prize Pitch Day

Select finalist teams will be invited to pitch their project ideas to a panel of judges to possibly receive an additional award

People's Choice Video Contest

4/27-5/4

View and vote for your favorite Big Ideas video at facebook.com/BigIdeasCal

MAY

5/4: Awards Celebration

Big Ideas contest winners will celebrate with friends, family, and Big Ideas affiliates

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

JUNE/JULY

AWARDS DISTRIBUTED

Summer 2016