

Pearl Sullivan Engineering IDEAs Clinic Activity Request for Proposals – 2026

The IDEAs Clinic was established to bring real-world activities into the classroom. In the past, many activities have been developed within the IDEAs Clinic. In order to nurture the development of new initiatives that are program-centric and better meet the needs of students, the Dean of Engineering through the IDEAs Clinic is offering an open call for proposals.

An overarching definition that guides the development of IDEAs Clinic activities is given below:

- Real-world, hands-on **design** experience for undergraduate students
- Ill-structured, ambiguous problems of appropriate scope for given students
- Draws on knowledge from multiple courses
- Team-based challenge
- Embedded in course design, no additional (or reduced) student workload

Priority will be given to proposals with clear alignment to Waterloo's Global Futures

<https://uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-100/global-futures>

Successfully funded proposals will receive up to \$10,000 of support. A total of \$40,000 is available. We encourage proposals both large and small.

Proposals are due June 30, 2026 to Chris Rennick (crennick@uwaterloo.ca).

Proposal must include:

- Description of the activity, discussing the following points (3 page maximum):
 - o the real-world component(s) of the problem
 - o the hands-on component(s)
 - o the integration/connection(s) with course(s) and with the curriculum
 - o impact on student workload
- Plans for dissemination of results
- Preliminary budget (maximum 1 page)
 - o Personnel requirements (e.g. grad students, co-op students, undergraduate developers/TAs)
 - o Equipment requirements
 - o Note: dissemination expenses are ineligible for these funds

Recommended inclusions:

- Demonstrated support from the department. This could take the form of teaching release, staff support, and/or matching funds for equipment

Evaluation process

The IDEAs Clinic will first evaluate proposals. Proposals that fit the stated criteria will be ranked and submitted to a committee for final funding decision(s).

The final decision will be made by a committee comprised of the Dean of Engineering, the Director of the IDEAs Clinic, and a nomination by the Dean.

Help available

IDEAs Clinic staff are available to discuss preliminary proposals prior to submission. Please contact Chris Rennick (crennick@uwaterloo.ca) or Nancy Nelson (n5nelson@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions.