Transforming and developing the venture capital investors of the future

Waterloo benefits from an elite network of angel and institutional investors who ensure our region’s best ideas survive and evolve from concept to fully-realized enterprises. This will align our combined resources and energy towards our mission:

*Transforming the professions, world-class research and experiential education*

The Student Venture Fund is a University of Waterloo program led by the School of Accounting and Finance and the Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business. It is designed to develop elite venture capital investors by giving students the opportunity to invest real money in real companies under the guidance of experienced investors.

“Waterloo is very well known for being innovative and developing entrepreneurs. Now, we have the opportunity to teach students how to finance these entrepreneurs. By developing both the entrepreneurs and the venture capital investors of the future, we are helping to grow the innovation ecosystem in Waterloo.”

RANJINI JHA
Associate Professor, Finance, SAF
“Working on the deal allowed me to gain everything I had hoped for from the experience. Being exposed to the culture, operations and unique growth trajectories of a start-up company was very insightful, and evaluating the business from an investing standpoint allowed me to see what it truly takes to have success in venture capital and as an entrepreneur.”

JOSEPH VACCARO (BAFM ’20), Analyst, SVF Winter 2018 Team

DUE DILIGENCE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING IF A COMPANY IS A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY OR NOT

- Complete market research
- Evaluate funding management
- Value companies
- Conduct thorough due diligence
- Make investment recommendations
- Work with other investors
- Manage a portfolio of companies

SVF students gain capabilities through direct, firsthand experience—by applying their knowledge in real-world settings and learning from the outcomes. The SVF team is supervised by faculty and guided by experienced investors in the Investment Committee chaired by Tim Jackson, the President and CEO at SHAD Network. A Venture Fund Advisory Council chaired by Sid Paquette, Managing Director at OMERS Ventures, provides oversight and includes the leading professionals with venture capital experience.

The Student Venture Fund provides the ideal combination of self-guided learning and mentorship, perfectly complementing Waterloo's cooperative education program, and a logical extension of the University's strategic commitment to experiential learning.

“IT’S ONE THING TO TEACH STUDENTS IN A CLASSROOM ABOUT HOW TO LOOK AT DEALS, MANAGE A PORTFOLIO, AND INVEST. BUT IT’S ANOTHER TO GIVE THEM HANDS-ON TRAINING IN THESE ACTIVITIES. STUDENTS LOOKING TO GO INTO VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTING ARE GOING TO GAIN A HUGE ADVANTAGE BY PARTICIPATING IN THE SVF”

TIM JACKSON
Chair, SVF Investment Committee
President & CEO at SHAD Network
Lecture, Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
uwaterloo.ca/saf/svf