UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN

iDEa│bUDs
Call for Innovative Student Ideas

Call for application

2022/2023 2nd semester

1. Background and objectives of the iDEa|bUDs Call for Innovative Student Ideas Program

The iDEa|bUDs Call for Innovative Student Ideas Program of the University of Debrecen (hereinafter referred to as the Program) is funded through the 'University Innovation Ecosystem' project financed from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund. Additional funding may be provided from the University of Debrecen Innovation Fund. The program is coordinated by the Innovation Ecosystem Center department of the University of Debrecen.

The Program provides support to students of the University of Debrecen

- to further develop and strengthen their own innovative ideas,
- to validate the market potential of these ideas,
- and to develop entrepreneurial mindset through mentorship and training programs.

This Program contributes to the University's third mission: to create a new type of opportunity to strengthen university-industry links and to extend knowledge transfer to new areas.

The objectives of the Program are:

- to provide students with the opportunity to develop prototypes and validate their ideas in order to increase their market value;

- to shape students' attitudes by deepening their entrepreneurial mindset and related skills;

- to promote innovative student ideas towards commercialization.

Supported projects should aim at the validation of ideas, the production of prototypes, technology development, analyzing market potential and any other activities moving these ideas towards commercialization.

The projects shall be evaluated by a team of experts consisting of innovation managers and business experts.

2. Details of the application, eligibility criteria

Applicants:

Students with active status at the University of Debrecen (BSc, MSc, PhD).

Eligible beneficiaries:
1. a team of up to 4 students having a letter of acceptance from the host department;
2. a team of up to 4 students who do not need a host department for the project;
3. a team of up to 4 students who need a host department to implement the project, but does not have a suitable contact at the time of application. In this case the Innovation Ecosystem Centre staff will try to find a suitable university host.

Conditions for teams:

A student may only participate in one team during both the application and the implementation period (including both team leader and team member roles).

Grant amount:

Minimum 500.000 HUF, maximum 6.000.000 HUF grant per project per team, which includes the amount of the scholarships as well. Detailed rules for the use of the grant are set out in the Guidance.

Further condition

The activities and the budget of the pre-selected projects shall be finalized together by the Innovation Ecosystem Center, the host department and the student team with special attention to the rules and limitations of the funding mechanism. The basis of the final decision shall be the jointly finalized budget and project activity plan.

Scholarship:

Students of the University of Debrecen can receive a scholarship up to 100.000 HUF/month/person during the project period.

Project duration:

Projects should start on 1st June, 2023. Maximum of 6 months

Application:

Signed Application form should be sent via e-mail to poc@unideb.hu

Application deadline:

15th of May, 2023

Evaluation:

After a pre-evaluation process selected groups will be required to pitch their idea on 23rd of May in front of a jury at the Innovation Centre of the University of Debrecen.

3. Funding

The final version of the project plan and budget will be jointly agreed upon between the applicants and the Program coordinators after the submission and the pre-screening/evaluation of the application. Beneficiary student teams may receive the following types of support, as agreed during the consultation process, in line with the approved project:

a. Financial support, which may be used through the host department
b. Scholarship for UD student team members up to 100.000 HUF/month/person
c. Mentoring, pitch-training;
d. Workshop to acquire practical entrepreneurial skills;
e. Intellectual property protection consultation;
f. Consultation with an industrial partner (if requested, and if feasible)
g. Exchange of experience, professional workshop

Financial support under point (a) may be used for testing the idea on which the project is based, carrying out the studies/experiments necessary to substantiate the idea, producing and developing prototypes, technological development, testing the market potential and other activities to validate the idea.

The maximum amount of funding per project should not exceed HUF 6 million, including the remuneration of the university mentor (if applicable) and the student scholarship.

Eligible applicants will have access to the Makerspace student innovation lab, which includes 3D printers and 3D scanners, design stations, DIY tools (hand and machine tools), for the implementation of the project. For more information about Makerspace, please contact the program manager assigned to this program.

4. Evaluation criteria

Projects will be assessed by a team of experts consisting of innovation managers and business professionals, according to the following criteria.

1. Idea. The challenge that the project seeks to address and the approach/solution to the challenge. How innovative is the idea? What is new? How creative and ambitious is the idea? How solid and mature is the basis of the idea? How significant is the improvement compared to existing solutions?
2. Value proposition. The value of the innovation to the intended end user and the potential social impact of the innovation if implemented. The range of potential applications.
3. The main outcome of the project. Results obtained following successful completion of the supported project.
4. Follow-up. The follow-up plans after the successful completion of the project, the role of the project results after the project has been completed. Possible follow-up plans and future collaborations to achieve longer-term objectives. How can the results of the project be delivered to the intended end-users? What next steps in the innovation chain will be available and how realistic is it to realize the innovation in the long term after the end of the iDEa|bUDs supported project?
5. Project team. Composition and expertise of the project team (applicants, host department, potential partners; complementarity and innovation expertise within the team). To what extent does the project have access to the resources and expertise needed to implement the project? To what extent is there a plan to involve relevant external actors (partners, clients, stakeholders, investors, mentors, social actors, etc.)?

6. Project design and budget. Objectives, milestones, budget, risks and mitigation plan. How likely are the outlined objectives to be achieved by following the project plan? How realistic and cost-effective are the budget and financing plans, and are they clearly rooted in the project plans and resource requirements?
7. Environmental impacts. How will the full implementation of the innovation project and the bringing to market of the final product/service result in beneficial environmental impacts at the societal/economic level?

5. Further information and confidentiality

This Document is a call for application. Further information is included in the documentation package of the iDEa|bUDs Call for Innovative Student Ideas Program, available at the following website: https://techtransfer.unideb.hu/en/ideabuds

All documents and data submitted by the teams are kept confidential by the University of Debrecen and will not be disclosed to third parties without the prior consent of the team, except to the members of the jury evaluating the applications.

The contracting authority reserves the right to modify the call for proposal and its documents.