

2025 University Call for Innovation FAQs

What is the CICE 2025 University Call for Innovation?

CICE is proud to continue its new partnerships to accelerate venture development and commercialization of climate solutions from B.C. universities by introducing a pathway to early-stage funding. CICE's university call works to accomplish these efforts in collaboration with B.C. universities and their respective entrepreneurship programs ("EPs").

The entrepreneurship programs that will be participating in the CICE 2025 University Call for Innovation include: entrepreneurship@UBC-V (UBC), entrepreneurship@UBC-O (UBCO), UVIC Coast Capital Innovation Centre (UVIC), SFU VentureLabs (SFU), BCIT Entrepreneurship Program (BCIT), and UNBC's Innovation Program (UNBC).

Who can apply for the 2025 University Call for Innovation?

The university call will consist of EPs from the respective B.C. universities nominating their top climate technologies or innovations, with a priority given to those that align with CICE's core focus areas for decarbonization: low carbon hydrogen, low carbon fuels, battery and energy storage, and carbon management.

The companies will need to show a direct relationship to GHG emissions abatement from their technologies. The technology must lead to the direct removal or replacement of GHG emissions from fossil fuels with a priority on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Technologies that enable the direct abatement of GHG emissions will also be considered in this call for innovation.

CICE requires that all nominations align with a technology readiness ("TRL") of 4-9 and that all ventures are B.C.-incorporated companies.

How can I apply for the 2025 University Call for Innovation?

Each university EP will have a designated application intake lead that will invite nominated companies to submit all expressions of interest (EOIs). Eligibility for each nomination to the university call will depend on the requirements of each university EP.

EOIs will be submitted to CICE through an invitation link for each of the university EPs. This link will be active during the application intake phase: March 26, 2025 (9am PT) – May 7, 2025 (5pm PT).

See the [application guidelines](#) for more details.

How does the nomination and application intake process work?

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Who and what types of solutions are eligible?

Hard climate technologies are eligible for this call, with a priority given to those that align with CICE’s core focus areas for decarbonization: low carbon hydrogen, low carbon fuels, battery and energy storage, and carbon management.

CICE requires that all nominations align with a technology readiness (“TRL”) of 4-9 and that all ventures are B.C.-incorporated companies.

How much funding is available through this call for innovation?

Through this university call, CICE will consider awarding non-dilutive investments to university nominated ventures. Investments will be disbursed as advanced funding and ventures are expected to detail the planned use of proceeds for such funding. **The amount of up-front funding will be \$75,000 to \$100,000 per venture**

How can funding be used?

CICE funding for the university call is considered flexible funding and will be eligible to those EP nominated ventures that are selected. This up-front, non-dilutive funding will cover all start-up costs that include, but are not limited to:

- Establishment of venture
- Nominal salaries
- Workplan development
- Corporate development and fundraising
- Operating and capital expenses
- Legal and IP related costs

How should applicants estimate and report the impact of their projects, particularly in terms of GHG emissions reductions?

The application should include a lifecycle analysis of the innovation, along with estimates of GHG emissions reductions, both at the project level and at scale. Assumptions and calculations should follow industry-standard methodologies, and supporting references or studies must be available upon request. In cases where it is more appropriate, such as in load-displacement applications, proposals may use proxies for GHG emissions (e.g., energy consumption metrics) for the calculations.

What is the expected timeline for the 2025 University Call for Innovation?



What is the expected timeline for investment dispersal?

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What types of projects and/or companies have you funded through previous calls for innovation?

To date, CICE has funded 59 climate and energy projects focused on decarbonization. Visit our website to learn more about CICE's funded projects: <https://cice.ca/projects/>

I don't fit the criteria for this Call for Innovation, but we meet the criteria for other funding calls. Can I speak to someone about other funding opportunities?

Sign up for email updates and follow CICE on social media to stay up to date on all of our funding opportunities. [Check out the current funding opportunities here.](#)

Who can I contact for more information?

B.C. university entrepreneurial program contacts for the CICE 2025 University Call for Innovation application intake process

entrepreneurship@UBC Vancouver	Sean Lumb	Associate Director	sean.lumb@ubc.ca
UVIC Coast Capital Innovation Centre	Jerome Etwaroo	Director	icead@uvic.ca
entrepreneurship@UBC Okanagan	Kayla Cartlidge	Program Manager	kayla.cartlidge@ubc.ca
SFU VentureLabs	Todd Farrell	Program Director	todd@venturelabs.ca
UNBC Entrepreneurship Program	Mark Barnes	Support	mark.barnes@unbc.ca
BCIT Entrepreneurship Program	Vidya Vankayala	Director	vidya_vankayala@bcit.ca