

ALBERTA INNOVATES

Campus to Commercialization: Alberta College/Polytechnic Work Integrated Learning Ecosystem Development Program Call

Fact Sheet

Call Overview

Alberta's tech sector does not just need good innovation ideas — it needs more people who know how to move an idea from a whiteboard to the market. This Call invites Alberta's colleges and polytechnics to build that pipeline directly into the classroom.

Through this program call, Alberta college and polytechnic institutions will be invited to design and deliver work-integrated learning experiences that place undergraduate students alongside Alberta's technology SMEs — giving students a front-row seat to how innovation actually becomes a business and giving companies fresh talent to advance their commercialization and economic impact. The result is a generation of graduates who do not just study Alberta's tech economy, they have already helped build it.

This is not just a work placement program. It's an investment in the connective tissue between our college and polytechnic post-secondary institutions and our innovation economy — the kind of applied, hands-on learning that turns curiosity into capability, and capability into companies that grow, hire, and stay in Alberta.

We are looking for college and polytechnics ready to reimagine what their talent can do for the province's commercialization ambitions — and to prove that the strongest talent pipeline for Alberta's tech sector starts on campus.

Funding

The Program Call provides support for up to \$500,000 per project for up to a two-year term.

- The funding amount for individual projects is based on the outcomes and quality of the proposed project.
- Funding is for projects with measurable outcomes within a set timeframe and not for ongoing base operations of an institution.
- Applicant contribution is not required for this Program Call. However, additional consideration will be given to applicants where it is demonstrated that the applicant contributes cash or in-kind funding or leverages funding from other sources.
- Funding is paid directly to the post-secondary applicant and disbursed upon receipt and approval of a milestone-based report. A payment upon execution of the investment agreement may be considered to accelerate the project.

- At Alberta Innovates' discretion and based on the project need, funding may exceed the maximum.

Alberta Innovates only funds reasonable costs incurred after an Investment Agreement is signed by Alberta Innovates and the Applicant. Any costs incurred before the Project Start Date defined in the Investment Agreement and costs greater than market prices are ineligible. Costs must be incurred between arm's-length entities. Please refer to the Investment Agreement on the Program website for detailed information, including eligible and ineligible expenses.

Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

As this Call is focused specifically on building pathways between undergraduate students and Alberta's tech commercialization economy, applicants must be:

- An Alberta college or polytechnic listed on the Government of Alberta publicly funded institution list. <https://www.alberta.ca/designated-post-secondary-institutions-alberta>

While one post-secondary is required to be the lead applicant, additional consideration will be given to applicants who have formed partnerships with other Alberta college/polytechnics.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- Demonstrate a clear alignment to the Call objective of creating undergraduate tech talent commercialization pathways.
- Include evaluation and sustainability plans to maximize project impact.
- Have an effective governance structure and management team in place to execute the project.
- Include critical "go/no go" milestones
- Be completed within a maximum of 24 months
- Comply with other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time

Additional consideration will be given to projects that:

- Build on existing ecosystem partnerships, or forge new ones, with other colleges and polytechnics, industry, and the broader entrepreneurial community — including Regional Innovation Networks (RINs) to strengthen Alberta's talent-to-commercialization pipeline.
- Demonstrates how the proposed approach intersects with and advances a provincial commercialization talent strategy, rather than operating as a stand-alone, institution-specific initiative.
- Propose new or unconventional delivery models that go beyond traditional placements — approaches flexible enough to meet the tech sector's needs today and adapt to where the industry is heading tomorrow.

- Considers multi-institution or cross-regional collaboration, and how the model could be scaled or adopted elsewhere in the province, building shared infrastructure rather than a one-off, single-campus solution.
- Identifies natural connection points with existing Alberta Innovates programs, RIN nodes, or regional entrepreneurial supports, so the work reinforces rather than duplicates what's already there.
- Thinks about how underrepresented student populations or smaller/rural SMEs could be intentionally included in the model, widening who benefits from the connection between talent and commercialization.

How to Apply

STEP 1: ENGAGEMENT

Applicants are strongly encouraged to Connect with the Emerging Technology and Talent Team Call lead (Adam Brown at adam.brown@albertainnovates.ca) prior to completing a Full Proposal

STEP 2: FULL PROPOSAL

Access, complete and submit the Full Proposal form within the Funding Opportunities tab on the Portal dashboard.

The review process is highly competitive and only the highest-quality projects will be considered for funding. Applicants may be requested to present their proposed project and/or provide additional information throughout the review.

If the review is positive, a funding recommendation will be made to senior management and may include adjustments to the funding request and/or funding conditions.

STEP 3: AGREEMENT

Successful applicants will execute an agreement with Alberta Innovates to proceed with the Project.

Agreement will include details regarding:

- Reporting on progress to milestones and budget on an agreed timeline during the term of the Agreement; and
- Reporting on progress to outcomes on an agreed timeline during and following the term of the Agreement.
- Project payments are based on milestone achievement and progress reporting.

Key Dates

Call Launch Date	September 14, 2026
Full Proposal Submission Closing Date	November 16, 2026, at 4:00 pm MST
Targeted Review Completion Date	January 31, 2027
Targeted Agreement Execution Date	February 28, 2027

Evaluation

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine if they fit the project call objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

Contact Information

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