Wayfinder Incubator
Program Overview
Wayfinder is a program for UCI-affiliated startups that is designed to accelerate venture development by providing teams with space, strategic guidance, and other valuable support resources. The program is managed by UCI Applied Innovation and run out of The Cove, the organization’s physical space in UCI Research Park.

**Program Overview**

**VALUE OF PARTICIPATION**

Teams in Wayfinder have access to guidance and mentorship from UCI Applied Innovation’s Experts-in-Residence Network, learning experiences through workshops and office hours, work space and meeting rooms, networking and exposure opportunities, and funding resources, including the Cove Fund. As a central part of UCI Applied Innovation’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, Wayfinder teams may experience additional tangential benefits and enrichment opportunities that result from their enhanced engagement with the community. There is no cost to the startup associated with participation in the program.

**APPLICATION COMPONENTS**

- Entrepreneurship resources used at UCI prior to application
- Basic startup information
- Detailed startup information
- Commitment to active participation in the program
- Team members
- Goals and needs

**WAYFINDER PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

- **Program Cycle (occurs 4 times per year)**
  - Pitch Event
  - Mid-Cycle Review
  - Showcase Event
  - Final Review

**PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The scope of the program covers the following basic components. More details about the requirements and expectations surrounding participation in the program are distributed to the teams upon admission.

**Program Cycle**

- **Pitch Event**
  - Initial pitch event to expose new teams entering the program to mentors and the Applied Innovation community
- **Mid-Cycle Review**
  - Formal Reviews: strategic guidance and quality feedback about startup progress from reviewers at the midpoint and end of each program cycle
- **Showcase Event**
  - Final showcase event for teams completing their cycle to present their startup’s development to mentors, the Applied Innovation community, potential investors, and other interested parties
- **Final Review**
  - Project and progress goals for team’s experience in the program

**WORKSHOPS & ADVISING**

Workshops: exclusive workshops on various entrepreneurship subject areas

Advising: guidance, expertise, feedback, and connections through meetings and office hours with mentors

**Formal Reviews**

Strategic guidance and quality feedback about startup progress from reviewers at the midpoint and end of each program cycle

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Eligibility**

To apply for the Wayfinder program, a team must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Be using UCI-owned intellectual property as a core part of the startup’s business idea
- Have at least one active team member (co-founder or member of the management team) who is a current UCI faculty, student, staff, or alumnus (degree program or minimum completion of 16 units)

In some unique cases, exceptions may be made for non-UCI students whose university’s existing entrepreneurial offerings are for some reason insufficient

**Admissions Criteria**

Successful applicants to Wayfinder will exhibit the following characteristics:

- The startup team has a basic understanding of its current business model and is able to effectively communicate it
- The startup addresses a real problem or customer need and will offer a product/service that is unique or hard to duplicate
- The startup team can demonstrate that it has initiated the process of customer discovery by testing customer reactions to its business model hypotheses

**Program Length**

Four Wayfinder cycles run per calendar year. Each team is admitted for one cycle approximately 6 months long with the possibility of cycle renewal. While cycles exist to create a shared experience among teams and allow for calendar alignment, each individual team’s experience and respective progress targets are customized.

**Goals and Needs**

- Progress goals for the program cycle
- Overarching goals for team’s experience in the program
- Assistance/mentorship requests

**Application Deadlines**

- Team members
- Contact information
- Role
- UCI affiliation

**Application Link**

- **Website:** innovation.uci.edu
- **Email:** wayfinder@uci.edu

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At Wayfinder, we strive to create an invaluable experience for UCI entrepreneurs and inventors.

— Juan Felipe Vallejo

Director, New Venture Group
## Cycle Dates & Application Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Cycle</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Cycle Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>Mar 2, 2018</td>
<td>Apr 2, 2018 – Sep 28, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>Jun 1, 2018</td>
<td>Jul 9, 2018 – Dec 14, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>Sep 7, 2018</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2018 – Mar 29, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Nov 30, 2018</td>
<td>Jan 7, 2019 – Jun 28, 2019</td>
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Learn more about the Wayfinder Incubator program at: innovation.uci.edu/programs/wayfinder-incubator/

Have questions? Email us: wayfinder@uci.edu