

Access funds to bring your idea from concept to reality



UCI Applied Innovation’s Student Startup Fund program provides micro-grants to students engaged in UCI’s entrepreneurial programs, competitions and centers.

Friends and family funding plays an important part in supporting early-stage startup activities such as prototyping, market research and product refinement. For a sizable portion of our students, this funding is virtually inaccessible. Lack of critical funding forces promising innovations to be abandoned and, therefore, denies student innovators opportunities to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations.

The Student Startup Fund helps bridge this funding gap, allowing students to continue developing their dreams.

Use of Funds

The Student Startup Fund helps cover specific project-related expenses (up to \$1,000) to further develop entrepreneurial concepts/startups for students and recent alumni. Additional funds may be available in exceptional cases. Granted funds are intended for immediate or short-term use, and should adhere to the following criteria:



ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Prototyping materials
- Project supplies
- Specialized software (less than \$1,000)
- Small equipment (note that UCI retains ownership of the equipment after the project has ended)
- Fees associated with attending project-related conferences or events
- Expenses related to customer discovery
- Expenses related to lab testing



UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Living expenses (rent, food, gas, etc.)
- Stipends/payroll expenses
- Equipment greater than \$5,000
- Legal fees (corporate formation expenses)
- Personal technology (laptops, tablets, smart phones, desktop computers, etc.)
- Entertainment
- Alcohol



EXPENSES NEEDING HIGHER APPROVAL

- Service or consultant agreements (marketing, software development, etc.)
- Patent fees
- Costs to host an event (venue, food, etc.)

Funding Cycles

Each academic quarter, the Student Startup Fund distributes a new allocation of funds. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, so it is in the best interest of the student to submit as early in the cycle as possible. After the current cycle’s funds have been exhausted, any application received thereafter will be considered for the next cycle. To view upcoming cycle dates, visit: innovation.uci.edu/programs/studentstartupfund

Apply Today

Students interested in requesting support from the Student Startup Fund should submit an online application through this link: innovation.uci.edu/studentstartupfund-apply