Big Ideas is an early-stage innovation contest that provides funding, support and validation to interdisciplinary teams of undergraduate and graduate students who have big ideas.

The competition spans across 16 campuses in the US and Uganda. Since its launch in 2006, Big Ideas has inspired more than 5,000 students to propose 1,300+ high-impact projects aimed at solving the world’s most pressing problems. By encouraging novel ideas and providing the necessary support to develop them, Big Ideas has helped contest winners make a difference all over the world. This year’s competition will award up to $300,000 in prize money to students competing across 9 Big Ideas categories.

The success of the contest and the teams and ideas it produces is made possible by the 300+ enthusiastic professionals who serve as judges and mentors each year. Past judges have included industry leaders, professors, innovative thinkers, entrepreneurs, consultants, and project designers from one or more of our categories areas - including representatives from Google, Twitter, Packard, USAID, Yahoo, World Bank, Bain & Co and many others.

LEARN MORE: bigideas.berkeley.edu | bigideas@berkeley.edu
Big Ideas Judges support the contest by reviewing proposals in a category of their choice, scoring them based on established criteria, and providing written feedback for improvement. All judging is done remotely in judges’ free time via our online application platform. Judges can participate in one or both of our two contest rounds:

- **Pre-Proposal Round:** The pre-proposal round review period runs from mid-November through early-December. Pre-Proposal judges review between 6-8 submissions - each of which is 3 pages long. In this round, scoring emphasis is placed on how creative and innovative the idea is within its category.

- **Final Round:** The final round review period runs from mid-March to early-April. Final Round judges review full proposals - each of which is 10-15 pages long. In this round, scoring emphasis is placed more equally on potential for impact, implementation and viability.

If you are interested in serving as a Big Ideas Judge, you can visit our [Judges’ Page](#) to learn more about the judging process and submit a brief “application” that summarizes your expertise and interests. You can also reach out to us at bigideas@berkeley.edu or (510) 666-9120 with questions, and we will be happy to follow-up with you personally.

---

**PAY IT FORWARD** by giving back to aspiring social innovators and entrepreneurs from 100+ disciplines

**GET INSPIRED** by novel ideas from the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs and changemakers from UC Berkeley and other top universities

**GROW YOUR NETWORK** by joining a network of 300+ industry leaders and professionals who support Big Ideas as judges and mentors