GLOBAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

2026-2027 CAPSTONE STUDIO
CAPSTONE PROJECT SPONSORSHIP

VALUE PROPOSITION

The GIX Capstone Studio offers industry sponsors unique access to an international and interdisciplinary team of graduate students enrolled in the University of Washington's project-based Master of Science in Technology Innovation program. Capstone project teams, which may include designers, engineers, researchers, project managers, entrepreneurs, and other professionals, spend up to six months developing novel solutions for sponsors using advanced technologies with strong commercial potential and high social impact.

PROCESS

Each year the University of Washington's Global Innovation Exchange invites a select group of companies, organizations, and agencies to participate in Launch Studio, which is a signature component of its graduate program in technology innovation. Following a selection and scoping process with faculty and leadership from GIX, sponsors are expected to engage and support their capstone project teams with a commitment to meet one to two hours each week. Throughout the process, the three- to five-member teams are mentored by leading university faculty and experts from Seattle's world-renowned innovation ecosystem.

SCOPE

Capstone projects typically include a combination of sensors, data, visualization, and machine learning, generating insights about a problem scoped by the sponsor in consultation with faculty. Ideal problem areas focus on novel applications for emerging technology, incorporating hardware/software development, design and user experience, and market or business opportunity exploration. Preference will be given to problem areas that address an unmet social need (e.g., sustainability, circular economy, conservation, health, social equity, etc.).

TIMETABLE

Fall-Spring	Launch Studio Project Proposals Accepted/Reviewed
Spring-Summer	Launch Projects Scoped and Announced
Fall	**Launch Studio Begins (6 months)**
Spring	Final Launch Studio Presentations

What's unique about GIX is that they take a holistic approach to building an actual product. As senior engineers, we have inherent biases. The students can influence things in ways we've never imagined.

— Patrick Flickinger, Microsoft AI for Good.

DELIVERABLES

Sponsors can expect capstone project teams to complete an iterative design cycle, including user research, two rounds of evaluative testing, and one round of functional testing. Teams will also deliver a proof-of-concept working prototype and a functional end-to-end software application. Finally, Teams provide sponsors with a comprehensive business analysis, including stakeholder and market assessments, a go-to-market strategy, and a six-month continuation plan.

COST

USD 25,000 (per capstone studio project)
Members of the GIX Consortium do not pay a project fee.

*A limited number of reduced-fee projects are available each year for non-profit organizations, government agencies, or startups.
Apply early for consideration.*

CONTACT

Katelin Cannon, MBA
Director of Partnerships & Engagement Programs
kacannon@uw.edu
gix.uw.edu

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