FOSTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD
Look Inward. Go Upward.

Business Startup Bootcamp

New student admissions for Summer 2026 are open

Academic Program Overview

Gain hands-on experience in what it takes to be a startup founder during this intensive one-week bootcamp at the University of Washington Foster School of Business. Working in teams, students will use design thinking to develop innovative product ideas, validate markets, create business strategies and build prototypes.

Inspired by UW Foster's undergraduate entrepreneurship curriculum, the program dives into the real-world challenges and energy of launching a startup. The week blends classroom learning with hands-on application and insights from Seattle's vibrant startup ecosystem.

Learn essential business fundamentals from UW Foster faculty and industry pros, then immediately put those concepts to work through prototyping, strategy sessions and team collaboration. The program wraps with a pitch competition where you'll present your startup idea to a panel of judges, followed by an awards and certificate ceremony to celebrate your progress.

Whether you're exploring entrepreneurship for the first time or building skills that help you stand out for college and beyond, this bootcamp gives you the experience and confidence to turn ideas into action.

Program Highlights

- Work in small teams with other entrepreneurial students to design a product-based startup
- Apply frameworks for ideation, iteration and identifying unmet market needs
- Learn market research fundamentals and how to ask questions that uncover what truly drives customers
- Vet business ideas and discover what investors look for when evaluating startup potential
- Build prototypes and explore UW makerspaces that fuel the university's startup reputation
- Gain insights from UW Foster faculty and successful Seattle entrepreneurs in interactive sessions

2026 Dates

- July 19 - July 25

Instructor, Valerie Trask

Valerie Trask is an Affiliate Instructor at the Foster School of Business, where she teaches entrepreneurship, innovation and strategy. She brings more than a decade of experience helping organizations, from early-stage startups to Fortune 500 companies, navigate growth, build resilience and bring new ideas to market.

An entrepreneur at heart, Valerie has founded multiple ventures, including Tofinio Consulting, a strategy firm helping companies move faster and smarter, Sansaire, a consumer tech startup that broke Kickstarter records and Masters of Moxie, a coaching and consulting venture empowering women founders.

Before returning to Foster, she held leadership roles in product management and learning at Expedia Group. Valerie earned her MBA from Seattle University and her BA from the University of Washington. She is passionate about developing entrepreneurial leaders who can think boldly, act strategically and create meaningful impact.

Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival
12PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or UW Faculty Workshop
3:30PM	College Readiness Workshop, True You, or Mentor Groups
5PM-6:30PM	Commuter Student Departure
6PM	Dinner
7PM	Clubs
10:30PM	Night Checks

Course Structure

There are five three-hour class sessions over the one-week course. Students have class from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Students have additional academic time on Wednesday afternoon which can include an excursion or industry speaker.

Tuition Information

Commuter Students

- **Includes**: lunch, academic course, excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes**: lodging, breakfast, dinner and weekend excursions
- **Price**: $2,998

Residential Students

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course and weekend excursions
- **Excludes**: optional airport pickup and drop-off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price**: $4,298

Supplements:

- Application fee: Starting at $99 (mandatory, nonrefundable)
- Tuition Protection Plan: Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click here for more info.

More info on Airport Transfer

More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service

Apply Now!

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