Sponsor at Project at WPI

WPI's distinctive project-based approach to STEM education transforms bright students into thoughtful, action-oriented problem solvers who hit the ground running in the workplace. Sponsor a project to engage the fresh perspective and technical skills of a dedicated student team, guided by top-notch faculty, on pressing business challenges—while providing a real-world educational experience for WPI students. You'll have access to WPI alumni and students who understand the fundamentals of their chosen fields, work effectively in teams, think creatively, and have the skills and confidence to dive right in.

Project sponsors gain:

• Solutions to problems through engaging bright, motivated students and faculty project advisors.

• Unique opportunities to screen future talent and build relationships with faculty advisors that benefit the organization over time.

• A report at the end of the project that sometimes includes analytics, designs/prototypes, etc.

Project Type	Student Year	Typical Focus	Graduation Requirement
Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP)	Juniors	Interdisciplinary, team-based problem solving at the intersection of technology & society.	Yes
Major Qualifying Project (MQP)	Seniors	Team-based, professional-level design or research experience in the student's major.	Yes
Graduate Qualifying Project (GQP)	Master's & PhD	Team-based Capstone Experience. For more information about Data Science GQPs, contact cro@wpi.edu.	No
Independent Study Project (ISP)	Various	Individual student experience. Companies typically layer this type of activity with the projects above.	No
Classroom Student Project	Undergraduate	Term-based 7-week project.	No
Directed Research	Various	Individual student experience working alongside faculty research. Companies typically layer this type of activity with the projects above.	No

MQP TYPICAL PROJECT TIMELINES
Now soliciting for fall 2023 launch

• Late Fall: Project Concepts and Faculty Discussions

• January: Project Pitches Received, Agreements Established, Faculty Sought

• January to March: Students Select Projects of Interest

• Summer: Planning and Agreements Completed, Project Launch

• August to April (A Term through C Term): Project Implemented, Completed

• April: Project Presentation Day at WPI Main Campus or at Corporate Sponsor

DATA SCIENCE GQP TYPICAL TIMELINES
Now soliciting for fall 2023 launch

Fall
• Mid to Late Summer: Project Concepts and Faculty Discussions

• August: Project Pitches Received, Agreements Established Students Select and Launch Project

• August to December: Project Implemented, Completed

Spring
• September to December: Project Concepts and Faculty Discussions for Spring

• December to January: Project Pitches Received, Agreements Established, Students Select and Launch Project

• January to May: Project Implemented, Completed

• April: Project Presentation Day at WPI Main Campus or at Corporate Sponsor

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is required for a sponsored project to launch?
WPI's more than 500 full- and part-time faculty members are dedicated to using their talents, expertise, and intellectual curiosity to solve the most complex global challenges. Our faculty researchers collaborate with each other, with other world-class institutions, and with industrial associations and corporate partners to transform new discoveries into real-world applications. Gain direct access to their expertise or work side-by-side to overcome a critical business roadblock or to move your innovations forward.

Does the sponsored project program have fees?
Yes, the sponsoring organization provides a negotiated fee for each sponsored project to support the WPI Projects Program and the program objectives. There may also be materials and travel-related expenses depending on the project structure and needs. Sponsoring organizations interested in a discussion about projects and fees may contact a member of the WPI Corporate Relations team.

I potentially have sensitive information included as part of the project. How does WPI manage this?
The WPI Corporate Relations team is familiar with these concerns. We work with organizations to understand these sensitivities prior to the projects moving forward. When the project details are agreed to, WPI's Contract Administrator works with each sponsoring organization to prepare the necessary agreement and forms to ensure provisions that address confidentiality, intellectual property, and the publication/presentation of the project work.

Who can I contact about getting involved with sponsored projects?
If you are interested in a discussion regarding sponsored projects, please contact the Corporate Relations team at cro@wpi.edu / 508-831-5635.

Corporate Relations Office
Ph: 508-831-5635 | cro@wpi.edu

Corporate Partner page:
www.wpi.edu/+engage

WPI Seaport page:
www.wpi.edu/+Seaport

WPI Sponsored Academic Projects page:
www.wpi.edu/+SponsorStudentProject

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