The Western Accelerator is a critical component of the cross-campus entrepreneurship ecosystem at Western. It is open to Western students, faculty, and alumni with an expectation of a full-time commitment. The Western Accelerator will provide an intense, rapid and immersive education for prospective entrepreneurs. Our goal is to accelerate the life cycle of high potential ventures and to compress a year’s worth of learning into a few months for their entrepreneurs.

Entrance to the Accelerator will be a competitive process, accepting 6-8 teams per cohort. During their time in the accelerator, teams will:

• Receive a $3,000 per month stipend.
• Benefit from weekly programming: half-day educational sessions on leadership, sales, investors, pitch skills, etc. as well as mentoring sessions with successful entrepreneurs.
• Join networking events with successful entrepreneurs, industry experts, investors and service providers.
• Participate in “Pitch Day” at the end of program—a dynamic event where teams deliver their idea and business plans to an audience from the local entrepreneurship, business and investment communities.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
• The Western Accelerator will run from January 7, 2019 to April 26, 2019
• Monday through Friday from 10AM to 3PM, founders are required to operate out of the Western Accelerator (SH 3366).
• Founders are required to participate in all Accelerator events/workshops/competitions throughout their time in the Western Accelerator.

ELIGIBILITY
• Teams must have one to three founders. Founders working out of the Accelerator must have decision making ability.
• At least one founder must have a connection to Western. I.e.: Current student, Faculty, Staff or recent alumni (graduated within the last five years).
• Startups must have high potential to scale (i.e. have IP and/or have a clear competitive advantage addressing a large potential market).
APPLICATION PROCESS
There are three parts to the application to the Western Accelerator. Each part should be submitted together on or before November 15, 2018.

1. Write a one-page letter stating why you believe you will benefit from participation in the Western Accelerator and how you will contribute to other’s success.

2. Create a 10-page slide deck to describe your business. Please follow the guidelines laid out by in the Sequoia Capital Format. We will only read your first 10 slides; please do not send more.

3. Record a 1 minute video to pitch your business and provide a link to the video (using Youtube, Vimeo or any other video service).

Please do not disclose confidential information in your letter or on your slides.

Please submit your application using this link
Or visit uwo.ca/accelerator

Top ranked teams will have the opportunity to present their business to a selection committee on December 10, 2018 between 10:00am and 4:00p