FINDING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS THROUGH DESIGN THINKING

An ideathon is a short, intensive, workshop-like experience for students to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. These may be social, technical, governmental or environmental in nature – in fact, the issues or challenges addressed in an ideathon are endless.

HOW IT WORKS
Participants work in teams and use design thinking and innovative learning practices to ideate and collaborate on possible solutions. At the end of the experience, teams pitch their ideas and solicit feedback for further iteration. In an ideathon, the end result isn’t nearly as important as the design thinking and collaborative process along the way.

Finding inventive solutions to any given problem takes time, empathy, persistence and iteration and our goal in offering ideathons is to work toward inclusive innovation.
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE
CoMotion Ideathons are primarily for undergraduate students from all disciplines. We want a diverse, cross-disciplinary group of students from a wide range of backgrounds. The best Ideathons combine students from many majors – a design student partnered with a computer scientist, philosopher, and social worker. A biology student working together with a linguist, drama student, and public policy major.

The wider the cross-section of students involved, the more perspectives that can be taken into consideration, leading to solutions that are inclusive and relevant to the needs of the end-user.

RECENT IDEATHONS
UW students from diverse fields of study converge to apply design thinking and embark in an intensive ideation process. Recent ideathons have included exploring solutions to the following issues:

**THE PHYSICAL FUTURE OF UW**
2017

**ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT WITH STEM & THE HUMANITIES AT UW**
2016

**FOSTERING A MORE INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND HEALTHY CITY**
2015

Interested in participating in a CoMotion Ideathon? Contact us at uwcomotion@uw.edu.