

C4 Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom



Get student-driven
solutions to a
current challenge

Pan-University
Diverse
Real Impact

c4.yorku.ca



Photo credit:
Meagan Veneracion

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WHAT IS A CAPSTONE?

Capstone experiences invite students to:

- Consolidate, integrate, and apply their prior learning
- Dig into a complex research or design project
- Develop their independence, agency, and autonomy
- Hone their advanced critical and creative thinking skills
- Reflect upon their academic and professional journeys
- Communicate with different stakeholders

WHAT IS C4?

Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom – or C4 for short – is a new initiative that enables non-profits, start-ups, and businesses to inspire **multi-disciplinary teams** to work on year-long capstone projects that aim to make **real social impact**.

C4 enables off-campus partners to engage with upper-year students and faculty experts to gain new ways of thinking about challenges they want to see solved.

WHO'S INVOLVED

- School of the Arts, Media, Performance, and Design
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change
- Glendon College (Bilingual)
- Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Faculty of Health
- Lassonde School of Engineering
- Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
- Osgood Hall Law School
- Schulich School of Business
- Faculty of Science

WHAT MAKES IDEAL PROJECTS?

A great C4 project requires students to apply their prior academic experience to a “real-world” challenge, identified by a knowledgeable partner organization (or business). It is supported by a mentor from that organization between September and April, for approximately 15 contact hours total.

Importantly, the project should not be intrinsic to the running of the organization that pitched the challenge and provided a mentor, as capstone students need the autonomy to design and lead their own journey.

C4 especially values projects that are community engaged, sustainable, socially impactful, and cross disciplinary boundaries—that will last approximately eight months.

PREVIOUS CHALLENGES

Students from at least three different faculties worked together to generate solutions for the following:

- How might community art engage the public in environmental responsibility?
- How might a digital platform enable international students to feel connected to local students before and during studying abroad?
- How might wastewater recycling technology from the cannabis industry be adapted to facilitate urban food growing?
- How might solar energy technology be made cheaper and more accessible in developing areas?
- How might cutting-edge research into experiential trauma become more accessible to frontline mission workers?

Find out about past projects at: capstone.yorku.ca/projects

Your C4 Journey



GET IN TOUCH

The **Capstone Network** is happy to chat about the different ways that you can get involved with C4, from project pitching and mentorship to award sponsorship.

1



DEFINE A CHALLENGE

Work with our team to create a clearly defined challenge. Our students will design and lead a project to address it over an 8-month period (two semesters).

2



PITCH DAY

Meet the students you might be mentoring over the next school year as well as other C4 partners.

3



CONNECT

Engage with our students as they delve into the challenge you proposed. We recommend a minimum of once per month connections (via Zoom, Skype, or in-person) to fully take advantage of this unique opportunity.

4



CELEBRATE

Join us at Capstone Celebration Day in April (a unique event that includes student displays from across York) to explore the results of the year's Capstone Cohort, meet potential interns and new hires, and make new connections with other partners.

5



CHAT WITH US

We appreciate and value your opinions and would love to hear any recommendations that you have for how our initiative can better meet your goals.

6

Relationships & Roles

The Partner-Mentor

We ask that you work with us to design the challenge offered to C4 students and then present it live at our Pitch Day event in September (approximately 3 hours). Through the fall and winter term, you would meet with the team at least once per month to offer them advice and share your expertise (approximately 8 hours). At the end of the school year you would be invited to Capstone Celebration Day where students showcase their accomplishments (approximately 4 hours).

C4 Students

Students will research, design, and test potential solutions to the initial challenge you offer them. Over the eight-month process, they will need the freedom to both succeed and fail as well as steer their projects in whatever direction they choose. Timely advice from partner-mentors will support the development of their projects but ultimately this is a student-centred journey.

The C4 Team

We support the students in and out of class each week through developing core professional skills that will help their interdisciplinary teams work well together. We help students explore each other's perspectives, capabilities, networks, and understandings. We want students to be able to recognize how valuing each other's differences creates a better solution, and ultimately a better world.



Participation Fees

Students need funding for equipment, materials, and software in order to meet the challenges you have given them, therefore there is a fee associated with C4 participation.

Non-profit, NGOs, and government partners can participate without paying a fee. To make this possible, commercial partners will be charged based on a sliding scale depending on years of operation. Consult our website for up-to-date participation fee amounts.

We also welcome in-kind support of equipment, materials, and supplies.

Our Commitments

The C4 team will work to find you a suitable student team to match up with your proposed projects (although there may be more projects than teams available).

We will confirm at the beginning of September if we have matched your challenge to a student team and that project design process will begin.

The course instructors and academic supervisors will meet with the students to provide project guidance and support, monitor progress, evaluate their work and provide feedback to encourage innovative solutions to the challenges.

The students will consult with you (via e-mail, Zoom, Skype, or in person) to discuss progress, and you will be presented with the team's final results.



More than 300 attendees came out for the inaugural C4 Pitch Day in September 2019.

Photo credit: Ashley Williamson

Other Ways to Support C4



SPONSOR A CAPSTONE AWARD

We would love to hear from partners who would like to sponsor an award at our annual Capstone Celebration Day. Choose what you would like the award criteria to be, or ask us for inspiration. Previous awards have included projects that have the most immediate benefit to society and projects that best incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach.



SPONSOR AN EVENT

Fall Capstone Pitch Day and Spring Capstone Celebration Days are wonderful gatherings of community members, partners, campus friends and family, where excellence is celebrated and connections are made.



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Chat with the C4 team



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