Call for Graduate Student Mentors – IDEAthon 2026 (November 14)

ReROW in collaboration with NOMAS, CAPAcity and UBC ITE are hosting the **IDEAthon 2026: (Re)Imagine Spaces.**

Graduate students from across disciplines are invited to support students during the IDEATHON competition stage (between 10:45AM – 4PM).

What is the IDEATHON?

The IDEAthon is a free, interdisciplinary design competition for undergraduate students at UBC. Teams collaborate to reimagine a prominent campus public space through creative, practical, and research-informed design ideas.

The IDEAthon will focus on **Flagpole Plaza near the Rose Garden**, exploring how this central campus space can better support people, movement, and everyday campus life. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to participate, including engineering, architecture, planning, environmental sciences, arts, and social sciences.

In teams of 3-5 undergraduates' students, from at least two different departments or majors, will work collaboratively to address social, environmental, aesthetic, safety, and transportation dimensions of public space design.

During the IDEAthon, teams will:

- Develop **practical and innovative solutions** to challenges facing public right-of-way spaces
- Explore how **social, environmental, commercial, aesthetic, safety, and transportation systems** interact
- Incorporate multidisciplinary perspectives and user experiences
- Present their ideas to faculty and invited reviewers

Teams will deliver a **three-minute presentation**, supported by visuals such as site plans, diagrams, and sketches.

You can check out what teams did last year, at our 2025 IDEATHON focused on University Boulevard.

What is an IDEATHON Mentor?

A mentor provides students with general (or specific) help during the IDEATHON competition. You will be asked to circulate among the teams during the competition phase

to answer questions, offer feedback, and help teams think through ideas. There is no grading or judging involved; this is a purely supportive role.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Ideation and conceptual development (brainstorming!)
- Design and planning support
- Policy & public engagement recommendations
- Graphics and presentation advice
- Technical knowledge

Benefits of being a mentor:

- Develop your communication skills
- Share your experience and expertise
- Strengthen your sense of community engagement and connectedness

Food will be provided throughout the day.

Interested in volunteering?

We welcome graduate volunteers from all departments and programs at UBC!

Email us at info.rerow@ubc.ca with your

- Full name and pronouns
- Department, Program and year
- Mentor knowledge: 2-3 keywords describing your expertise that you would like us included on your name tag