Frequently Asked Questions

What is E-Week?
E-Week is designed to be both a celebration of entrepreneurship as well as an educational experience of the entrepreneurial process for students. All activities build toward a student entrepreneur contest called The Pitch.

What is The Pitch?
The Pitch is a student entrepreneur contest. After reviewing all proposals, an evaluation committee will select up to ten semi-finalists. These semi-finalists will be matched with an entrepreneur mentor who will help them strengthen their proposal. Semi-finalists will resubmit their proposals to be evaluated again. The field will then be narrowed to five finalists who will be invited to participate in The Pitch on February 29. There, each student will have four minutes to pitch their idea to a panel of entrepreneurial judges. The winner will receive up to $10,000 to put their plan into action.

Is this a prize or a grant?
This is a grant. Within the proposal, entrepreneurs must outline their budget needs and milestones for payments. The winner will be declared on the evening of The Pitch. Therefore, all proposals should be action-ready. The Centennial Center for Leadership will allocate funds to the winner based on their stated budget needs.

I am not an Economics major and I have never written a business plan. Should I still enter a proposal for The Pitch?
Yes! We are expecting a wide range of majors and experience. Check our website (hws.edu/leadership) for fall workshops on November 8 and November 16 that will help you write a stellar proposal. You just need an idea and the motivation to see it through!

I am not an HWS student. Can I submit a proposal for The Pitch?
Sorry, this contest is for HWS students only.

Can I enter more than one proposal?
Only one proposal per student.

Can I submit a proposal with a team?
Yes, but if you submit a proposal as part of a team, you cannot enter another proposal as an individual. Teams should submit one proposal, and each team member should submit the Application, signed Waiver, and Dean’s Approval Form.

What types of proposals are you looking for?
We are looking for a wide range of entrepreneurial projects. For-profits or non-profits. All proposals must address the eight requirements outlined on the student proposal form.

What should I include in my proposal?
Check the application for the proposal outline for The Pitch. We’re looking for eight elements in each proposal. We’ve also posted our judging rubric on our website. Be thorough, thoughtful and creative with your proposal and this may get you an invitation to participate in The Pitch.

Where can I get help with my proposal?
Check our website for dates and details of workshops this fall. We are planning a workshop called Step 1 on Nov. 8, which will outline in detail how to put a proposal together. Then, on Nov. 16, we will offer another workshop called Step 2, which will demonstrate how to make your proposal action-ready and successful in the real world. Don’t miss these opportunities!

What happens if I am invited to participate in The Pitch?
We’ll notify all participants by December 9. Then, all selected participants will be assigned an entrepreneurial mentor who will help them prepare for The Pitch. These mentors will be taken from our career network and alumni base and matched with participants based on shared interest, career field, or proposal needs.

What if I win?
The winner will be expected to get started! After the winner is selected, the Centennial Center for Leadership will set up a meeting to discuss how the funds will be allocated. All participants will have already outlined their budget so this will be based on your particular proposal. Again, this is not a prize for winning the contest but a grant that will help you make your idea a reality, which is why proposals should be action-ready.

What if I am studying abroad during the spring semester?
If you are selected as a finalist, you must be available to participate in The Pitch on February 29. If you are unable to participate, you should submit your proposal as a member of a team and designate a team member to present the proposal during The Pitch. If you are unwilling to participate as a team, we recommend that you submit your proposal next year.

What am I waiting for?
We’re not sure either! Check our website (hws.edu/leadership) for more details and to get started.