

Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Artificial Intelligence

Student Group Partnership Package

March 2021 | Toronto, Ontario



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that the city of Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. To acknowledge this traditional territory is to recognize the territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it.



About CUCAI

The first annual Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Artificial Intelligence (CUCAI) took place on March 9th, 2019. Founded by QMIND- Queen's AI Hub and a strong Queen's community, the event marked its debut on the national stage with delegations from Queen's University, McGill University, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, and University of Manitoba.

At CUCAI 2020, over 200 students, industry leaders, and partners came together for two days to discuss the state of Canadian AI. This was the largest attendance for a Queen's conference to date.

For 2021, CUCAI will be held over two days in Toronto and we will be accepting over 250 delegates from the top schools in Canada. Depending on COVID-19 and the possibility of restrictions for large events in 2021, several contingency plans have already been developed. This is to ensure both our delegates and our industry partners remain safe while receiving the same phenomenal value, opportunities, and experiences as found with the event in previous years. Please refer to Pg. 9 for our detailed COVID-19 response.

Our community is one where we actively challenge the status quo around what undergraduate students are capable of achieving in the field of artificial intelligence. We are makers, innovators and disruptors and we have chosen this field because we know we can have an incredible impact. Our goal is to continue to grow our community and provide a space for undergraduate students to share their knowledge and explore the world of AI. The purpose of CUCAI is to create an environment where like-minded students can connect with each other and be supported in their ambitious goals. It's an opportunity for hard-working and innovative thinkers to share their thoughts and demonstrate what they have been working on. As a speaker, CUCAI is the perfect place to interact and connect with top talent in AI and machine learning. We hope to see you at CUCAI 2021!



Overview

We aim to increase accessibility for non-Queen's students interested in attending CUCAI, and increase the involvement of attendees from other schools. Beyond attracting delegates, we are inviting diversified bodies of attendees, design team members, AI incubator groups and undergrad AI group executives for our new executive team showcase.

CUCAI is planning on attracting over 50% non-Queen's delegates, although we are young and growing at a steady pace and still solidifying our spot in the world of undergraduate AI. Thus, CUCAI is going to retain full agency of the conference for 2021. In the future, we will be expanding our collaboration program and will allow more balanced control from other schools. For 2021, we want to ensure there is stability in the event for sustainable growth before allowing more agency from other AI clubs.

CUCAI 2021 Collaboration Vision

This year, our emphasis will be on:

Providing additional opportunities for the members of other AI groups at Canadian universities to become involved in aspects of CUCAI that they may not have been able to before

Leveraging the connections, outreach teams and insight of other groups to reach out to and secure speakers/sponsors for the conference that we may not have otherwise known about or been able to attract

Developing a more holistic understanding of the landscape of Canadian undergraduate AI organizations, determine which are the most interested in being involved in CUCAI as well as each of their available resources that could be dedicated towards the conference

Our CUCAI collaboration program will provide other groups like QMIND with opportunities for involvement of varying degrees to be as inclusive and accessible as possible. We will be granting more opportunities for dedicated groups allowing more involvement in sourcing speakers and sponsors, as well as participating in the conference's events.

Specific opportunities for additional involvement in the conference as part of this partnership program include:

Highlighting your design teams on a national stage

Publishing your research and design work via the CUCAI Conference Proceedings

Competing in the CUCAI pitch competition (prize pool to be determined based on involvement from other universities, more info on our AI incubator can found [here](#))

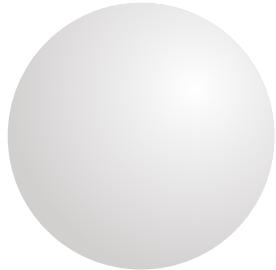
Networking with AI industry reps and top university AI societies

Hosting your own taster event and ownership for the conference at your university

Having a centralized undergraduate AI hub for all of Canada via Slack

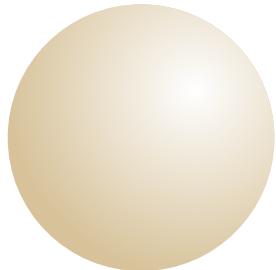
If you are able to bring in sponsors for CUCAI 2021, that money will go towards transporting your members to the conference and reducing ticket prices + towards running your own taster event.

Collaboration Tiers



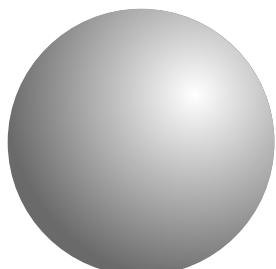
Platinum

The platinum collaboration tier will entail the most significant amount of involvement from partnering groups, with the highest expectation of bringing speakers and sponsors to CUCAI 2021, as well as the most benefits to the group. In order to be a gold tier collaborator, partnering groups will be required to bring in at least one keynote speaker OR at least one gold sponsor (\$5,000+ sponsorship), but it is strongly encouraged that groups aim to bring in more of each. For groups who choose to become involved at this tier, they will be given the largest number of delegate spots, design team spots, and will hold their own taster event prior to the conference, among other benefits.



Gold

This collaboration tier will entail slightly less involvement from partnering groups than the platinum tier. They will be expected to bring in at least one speaker OR sponsor, but it will be encouraged that these groups aim to bring in more of each as well. This level of collaboration will involve a moderate number of delegate spots and design team spots among other benefits.



Silver

This collaboration tier entails the least involvement from partnering groups, and it is meant to provide opportunities to partner with CUCAI for AI groups that may not have the resources or interest to become as involved as the other tiers. There is no expectation that partnering groups at this tier will bring in speakers or sponsors for the conference, although they are welcome to do so. This collaboration tier will involve a smaller number of reserved delegate spots, alongside other benefits.

Collaboration Table

Value to CUCAI	Silver	Gold	Platinum
One Keynote speaker OR Gold sponsor			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sponsor transportation to the conference		Partial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
One speaker, OR sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Optional
No speakers or sponsors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Benefits

Members of CUCAI Slack workspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reserved delegate spots	10	15	35
Design team showcase spots	2	4	
Design team work published in Conference Proceedings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Executive team showcase booth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holds their own taster event		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Included in monthly update meetings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Included in reveal post for student-run AI group partners (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Note: The numbers for delegate and design team spots as part of this collaboration program are based on 400-delegate conference; they are subject to changes depending on adjustments to the overall size of the conference as well as the relative of interest of partnering groups in each of the three tiers of collaboration.

COVID-19 Response

To ensure the safety of both our delegates and industry representatives, CUCAI 2021 is ready to respond to COVID 19 by either effectively limiting delegate numbers, or employing one of several detailed contingency plans if current social distancing measures are still in place by Winter 2021.

If government restrictions allow us to simply limit delegate numbers to hold CUCAI 2021 in person, this will increase the quality of CUCAI's delegates as a higher standard will be employed when reviewing delegate applications. Our regularly scheduled events will continue as planned, and CUCAI will ensure that the delegates your organization engages with are the nation's absolute best. If government restrictions are more severe, our contingency plans tackle two possible scenarios: a partially online conference or a fully online conference. These contingency plans address how each major component of the conference can be adapted or replaced to ensure that the value we historically brought to all CUCAI guests is maintained, and in some aspects heightened from an in person conference.

In the first contingency plan, if congregations of individuals on the scale of a conference such as CUCAI (i.e. several hundred people in the same room) are still not permitted, we plan to lower ticket prices and use a video conferencing platform to transition the majority of the conference. Delegates will not be required to travel to attend CUCAI, which will increase the number of students able to attend the conference. We will be working with the various departments at Queen's and other Canadian Universities to take advantage of the phenomenal spaces available to us at each of our schools. Here we will opt for smaller, organized gatherings of CUCAI delegates dispersed across Canada, with everyone connected via a central livestream where key events such as speakers, the design showcase, industry showcase, and inQUBate pitch competition will provided to delegates across the country. Finally, we are exploring the exciting possibility of incorporating a hackathon event into CUCAI in this scenario. We feel that this would be an innovative way to allow guests to apply their creativity and technical skills in a hands on and collaborative ongoing event while hooked to the centralized livestream.

In preparation for even the most extreme scenario via the second contingency plan, where there are restrictions on gatherings of any appreciable size, many of the same steps above that transitioned conference events to online equivalents will be used for a completely virtual CUCAI. With the inability to rent physical venues for any of the conference's events, ticket prices will be further reduced for delegates. However, we intend to maximize our online platform options to ensure that meaningful, interpersonal interactions are still a substantial aspect of the conference through virtual networking events, structured Q&A sessions with design teams and industry representatives, and the aforementioned hackathon event.

We are committed to improving the quality of the experience for all guests at CUCAI 2021, despite the obstacles posed by COVID 19, and are excited to have you join us as we tackle this adversity to deliver the most successful CUCAI to date.²

Contact Information

Let's Talk.

We're constantly looking to build dynamic relationships and partnerships with new and unique value.

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Visit Our Website

Learn more about our conference and how you can be a part of it!

Empowering future leaders to unlock the full potential of AI

[cucai.ca ↗](http://cucai.ca)