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About you

Use this worksheet to draft your answers before entering them in the online application. **This PDF is not a submission.** Applications close Friday, October 23, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. ET.

Full name *

UVA email (@virginia.edu) *

School *

Year *

School: College of Arts & Sciences; School of Engineering & Applied Science; McIntire School of Commerce; School of Data Science; School of Architecture; School of Education & Human Development; School of Nursing; School of Medicine; School of Law; Darden School of Business; Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy; School of Continuing & Professional Studies; UVA Wise; Other. Year: First year; Second year; Third year; Fourth year; Graduate or professional student; Other.

☐ I am a currently enrolled UVA student. *

Idea or venture name (a working name is fine) *

Teammates, if any

Solo applicants are welcome. Add each teammate separately online. Each teammate needs a valid @virginia.edu email.

Teammate 1: name / UVA email

School / year

Teammate 2: name / UVA email

School / year

125 WORDS MAX

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The problem

Be specific and plainspoken. These are the same questions and guidance shown in the online application.

Q0 Define the problem or opportunity you are addressing.**INSIGHT**

State it plainly, in your own words. What is going wrong, or what is now possible that was not before?

Q1 Who specifically has this problem?**INSIGHT**

Describe one real person who has it. No names needed. "Everyone" is not an answer.

Q2 How do they solve it today, and what is wrong with that?**INSIGHT · ORIGINALITY**

Name the products, workarounds, or habits people use now. Then say how your idea is different.

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The problem & the idea

Q3 How many people have you talked to about this problem, and what is one thing someone said that surprised you?**EVIDENCE**

Enter 0 if you have not talked to anyone yet — that is an acceptable answer. Tell us who they were (classmates, strangers, people in a specific job).

Number of people

Q4 What is the one assumption that, if wrong, would sink this idea?**INSIGHT**

Q5 Who would pay for this?**NOT SCORED**

Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ The person who uses it | ☐ A business |
| ☐ A school, hospital, or government | ☐ Donors, grants, or sponsors |
| ☐ Advertisers or a third party | ☐ Not sure yet |

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The idea

Q6 If AI tools disappeared tomorrow, would your idea still work?**NOT SCORED**

Select one, then briefly explain if you wish.

- ☐ Yes, AI is not part of it ☐ Yes, AI helps but is not essential
- ☐ No, AI is the core of the product

Briefly explain (optional)

Q7 Why are you the right person or team for this?**WHY YOU**

Personal experience, a skill, a connection to the people who have this problem.

Q8 What have you done so far?**EVIDENCE**

Select all that apply. Starting from nothing is fine.

- ☐ Talked with potential users ☐ Ran a survey
- ☐ Sketched or mocked it up ☐ Built a prototype
- ☐ Launched a landing page or social account ☐ Have sign-ups, pre-orders, or sales
- ☐ Nothing yet

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Where you want to go

Q9 What are you hoping this becomes?**NOT SCORED**

Every answer is welcome. This helps us match you with the right mentors.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A side project | ☐ A small business |
| ☐ A nonprofit | ☐ A high-growth startup |
| ☐ Not sure yet | |

Q10 What would help you most right now?**NOT SCORED**

Select any that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ A teammate | ☐ A mentor |
| ☐ Technical help | ☐ Access to customers or users |
| ☐ Funding or tools | ☐ Workspace |

Q11 Are you looking for teammates? If so, what skills?**NOT SCORED**

Before you submit

- ☐ Everything I describe here is real and my own. AI tools may help me write, but the conversations, prototypes, and results I claim actually happened. *
- ☐ I agree to be contacted about E-Cup programming, mentors, and workshops. *

How did you hear about E-Cup? (optional)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Class or professor | ☐ Foundry email or newsletter |
| ☐ Instagram or social media | ☐ Friend or teammate |
| ☐ Flyer or tabling | ☐ Foundry event |
| ☐ Other | |

Ready to apply? Transfer your answers to the online submission form and complete its quick bot check. This worksheet cannot be submitted.