Young Leaders Program
Inventing the Future

The University of Sydney

We are Australia's first university, with a history of leading new thinking and welcoming people from all social and cultural backgrounds for more than 160 years. We offer the widest range of academic programs of any university in Australia and we are a member of the Group of Eight network of leading Australian research universities. Our main campus is also recognised as one of the most beautiful in the world.

Since our inception, we have believed in education for all and leadership that makes lives better. Our alumni have inspired, led, entertained, challenged and improved the world around them. We have produced six prime ministers, two Nobel Laureates, three astronauts, 110 Rhodes scholars, one Pulitzer Prize winner and 145 Olympic athletes.

Young Leaders Program: Inventing the Future

Inventing the Future (ItF) is an interdisciplinary short course, jointly run by the faculties of Science, Engineering and Information Technologies, Business, and the School of Architecture, Design and Planning at the University of Sydney. The course is aimed at high achieving postgraduate and undergraduate students, to provide them with advanced skills in research translation, design and innovation.

The students will work in teams assigned by the teaching staff and will need to complete a pre-work task (a short report) prior to their arrival in Sydney.

Each team will include members with diverse technical, design and business skills. It encourages students to be highly creative, work in teams, and look beyond their own disciplines to develop solutions that are genuinely novel. The students will also have the opportunity to work with University of Sydney student mentors.

ItF encourages a future-focused approach to innovation, in which problems are addressed from multiple perspectives at once. We ask students to consider these problems in the context of the future. What are the technology, social, environmental and political trends, and what will the future look like in 10 or 15 years? We will leave some room for interpretation in the product briefs, so that students can be creative in choosing the solution with the most impact.

Student teams will be given a real product brief on **Rapid DNA sequencing, trust or air quality,** of social and economic importance, aligned with areas of university research. They must respond to this brief, producing a working prototype product, business case, and presenting to the expert panel at the end of the program.