PILOT FUNDS GOALS
Our mission at HILT is to catalyze innovations and excellence in teaching and learning. We believe that, at Harvard, we have an important role in pushing boundaries in the field of education and our students should have an active role in creating global solutions with measurable impact.

The HILT Pilot Fund is designed to help students take early stage ideas off the page and into the real world. Our goal is to give students resources so that they can develop prototypes to test their theories of change. Experiencing and learning from the process of innovation is what matters, much more so than the ultimate success of the idea. We want to learn from you and with you to share insights that we gain from these thoughtful experiments.

We are investing in students as learners, knowing that it takes both successes and failures to nurture an innovation mindset and to gain a deep understanding of how to be an agent of change in education.

We want to help Harvard students dream big and think lean as entrepreneurs or intrapreneurs in any sector solving important and timely challenges in teaching and learning.

CRITERIA
Grant proposals should address education-related issues broadly for any community or population globally. Specifically, proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Theory of Change** – a clear “if” “then” statement about how the proposed idea is intended to provide a thoughtful solution to a problem in education
- **Prototype plan** – a lean approach to rapidly collect data to test a core element of your theory of change
- **Budget** – a budget with approved cost items for up to $500

ELIGIBILITY
HILT Student Pilot Funds are open to all Harvard University full-time and part-time students in degree-granting programs. While this does not disqualify other Harvard affiliates from applying, at least one collaborator must meet this criterion in order to be eligible for funding. Students should feel welcome to reapply any and all of our four rounds of Pilot Funding as progress evolves.

Teams must:
- Include more than one person – use our network to find teammates!
- Strong priority will be given to cross-functional teams – teams with a range of skills and experiences. We encourage teams to have at least two students across different Harvard schools (i.e. a student from HGSE and HBS) though cross-functionality may be possible to attain and articulate on single-school teams. As in: a team can apply in which all members
reside at HGSE if they can articulate how they represent a diverse range of experiences, perspectives, and skills.

- Be early stage; teams have not received >$7,500 of total funding from all sources

APPLICATION

To submit a proposal, please see HILT website to fill out the online application, which will prompt you, as part of the process, to schedule a 30-minute consultation with one of HILT’s Education Innovation Fellows. The Pilot Fund application is purposefully very brief and includes the following questions:

- What problem are you trying to solve?
- What is your theory of change?
- What is your competitive landscape? How will you differentiate? Who will you compliment?
- How will you measure success?
- Who are your advisors/mentors?
- Budget and justification – identify a financial point-person for your team.

REVIEW

Applicants must meet with one of HILT’s Education Innovation Fellows. The Education Innovation Fellows will make their recommendations to HILT, who may consult with colleagues from the Harvard Education Innovation ecosystem to determine how best to support teams with their ideas.

REIMBURSEMENTS AND DELIVERABLES

Teams will create a budget and pay for items out of pocket (please contact HILT if this represents a hardship). Before getting reimbursed, teams must fill out a team report on HILT’s website along with all relevant documentation and receipts.

GRANT APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

Teams must submit online applications AND have met with an Education Innovation Fellow by the following dates. Teams are encouraged to apply on a rolling basis and meet with Education Innovation Fellows as soon as they feel ready.

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<tr>
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<th>Application and EI Fellow meeting deadline</th>
<th>Funding decisions</th>
<th>Reimbursement materials due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Round 1</td>
<td>Friday, October 19</td>
<td>Friday, November 2</td>
<td>Friday December 14</td>
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<td>Round 2</td>
<td>Friday, November 30</td>
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<td>Round 3</td>
<td>Friday, February 15</td>
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<td>Round 4</td>
<td>Friday, April 19</td>
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POLICIES

While there are a wide range of uses that are acceptable for HILT funding, the following are not permitted: paying team members for their time, living expenses, alcohol, or costs not directly related to the proposed project. We strongly encourage you to use funds for things that you are not capable of doing yourself and, when possible, explore using resources within the Harvard community.