



ELEMENTAL  
EXCELERATOR



**UC DAVIS**  
Innovation Institute  
for Food and Health

# IIFH Elemental Excelserator Fellow

A unique opportunity to join our 2021 innovation partners onsite to gain first-hand experience on what it takes to have a successful startup

- **\$70K fellowship:** 1 year salary, tuition, travel, research and conference expenses (up to \$70K by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Spring 2021 to Winter 2022 (flexible start date, virtual option if required)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students in their last 1-2 years of study
- **Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the first quarter of the fellowship, the fellow will work with the host to evaluate startups in the food system and identify investable ventures, kicking off with an onsite residency in Hawaiian or Californian offices (up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided). During the second quarter upon return to Davis, the fellow will engage in regular virtual and in-person meetings to conclude with the venture capital host.
- **Developing and De-risking Innovative Concept:** Using the knowledge gained in the first phase of the program, fellows will have an additional two quarters on campus to conduct critical studies for de-risking a potential technology, product or process they want to develop.
- **DEADLINE Friday, October 30 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [Click here to apply.](#)

## About Elemental Excelserator

[Elemental Excelserator](#) (Elemental) is mission-focused accelerator connecting commercial opportunities to entrepreneurs building world changing companies. Each year, we find 15-20 ventures that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million to improve systems that impact people's lives: energy, water, agriculture, transportation, circular economy and beyond.

In the agriculture sector, Elemental is working to address the lack of food resiliency and rising greenhouse gas emissions associated with food production, distribution and waste. Ideas that can help tackle those problems include, but are not limited to:

- Tools to increase local food production
- Sensors, automation and vertical farming
- Food safety, quality and traceability tools
- Protein alternatives
- Sustainable, high-quality inputs and alternative feeds
- Soil management technologies
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for the ag sector
- Healthy food alternatives with a focus on affordability, education and outreach
- Workforce development in the agriculture sector



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The Elemental culture is fast-paced, fun and results-oriented, offering opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to a high-performing team. We value collaboration, efficiency, communication, teamwork and feedback.

We believe that our most complex problems require collective action – and that this action must start at the local level. Our goal is not only to curate a portfolio of innovative and impactful startups, but also to build an ecosystem of passionate people working to change the world, one community at a time. We operate in Hawaii, California and strategic locations throughout the Asia Pacific where we see strong potential for commercial inflection points.

## **About the Innovation Institute for Food and Health**

The IIFH makes uncommon connections between sectors and disciplines to catalyze innovation across food, agriculture and health. It works to accelerate the deployment of products and processes to enable safe, sustainable and secure nutrition for all. Together with strategic partners, IIFH identifies systemic issues as the basis for collaborative programs using both top-down (partner-driven) and bottom-up (investigator-initiated) approaches to formulate systemic solutions. This reduces the time from conception to application for transformative impact.

## **Program Description**

### ***First Quarter: Experiential learning onsite with Elemental Excelserator***

- Start date flexible: following selection, anticipate joining Elemental Excelserator for the first quarter at their Hawaiian or Californian offices in Spring 2021 (including up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore Elemental Excelserator's strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in evaluating and vetting competitive investment opportunities.
- Learn what kind of companies and technologies are considered investable and engage with expert consortium members to understand opportunities in food/agriculture innovation.
- Gain invaluable knowledge about what investors look for in entrepreneurs.

### ***Second Quarter: Transition back to UC Davis, splitting time between research and virtual engagement with Elemental Excelserator***

- At UC Davis: upon second quarter return to Davis, continue to support Elemental Excelserator's efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in the food system.
- The fellow will work closely with Elemental Excelserator staff through virtual means, but support is provided for regular in-person meetings as needed.



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## ***Third and Fourth Quarters: De-risking technology/product/process concept***

- Resume campus research: for remaining two quarters, practice applying Elemental Excelsior learnings to conclude research activities (with support for research supplies), exploring the greatest impact and best route to market.
- Enrich learning: through on-campus Entrepreneurship Academy and business plan development, identify potential investors and research the target landscape.
- Support from: monthly face-to-face meetings with the IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.
- In conclusion: provide a brief report on the results and impact of the fellowship, and present at the annual Innovator Summit.

## **Application Requirements**

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Resume (PDF)
- 3) Letter of interest detailing current research focus, why the program is of interest to you, and how your career goals align therewith (max. 2 pages, PDF format)
- 4) Letter of support from supervising faculty PI (max. 1 page, PDF format)