

Project Title:

University of British Columbia International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) team

Project Summary (150 words maximum)

We seek to form a team of undergraduate students to compete in next year's International Genetically Engineered Machines competition. This will be the third year of participation by UBC in iGEM, with the first two years having been a resounding success. The iGEM competition draws teams of undergraduates from the top universities all over the world to try to answer the question: *"Can simple biological systems be built from interchangeable parts and operated in living cells, or is biology simply too complex to be engineered in this way?"*

The team will work for a summer on the assigned project and submit their findings to an international conference, the iGEM Jamboree, held annually in November at MIT. Due to its exponential growth as a program, iGEM will move to a "regionals" format in the coming year, in which teams compete within their region first, then proceed to the finals at MIT if they place well. This funding request covers part of the costs of entering and running a UBC team. Other required funds will be provided by in-kind and cash donations from UBC units, other academic contributors, and industrial partners.