

Proposal Requirements FAQ

Your **AU 2021** guide to submitting a proposal

Thank you for your interest in leading a class and sharing your expertise as part of Autodesk University. AU 2021 will be a digital conference held this fall and we're excited to bring the community together for a brand-new AU experience.

Please read the new AU requirements below to give your proposal the best chance of acceptance.

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Who attends Autodesk University, and what industries are represented?

Professionals in the fields of construction, manufacturing, architecture, media, and engineering come to AU to connect, share knowledge, and explore the technologies that shape

our industries and our world. More than 100,000 people attended the AU 2020 digital experience from more than 200 countries. Our audience includes product users, managers, executives, business leaders, and software developers.

What topics and themes will be prioritized at this year's conference?

The overarching theme of AU 2021 is the ongoing digital transformation of industry. We want to know how your work is advancing practice in your field and how you're using technologies in new ways to foster efficiency, increase resilience, respond to disruption, improve quality and safety, drive sustainability, and win more business. We also want to feature insight and strategies that can improve equity and diversity in the workplace. AU classes feature instructive case studies and demonstrate innovative workflows that show what's possible in how we design and make, as well as sharing industry insights, business strategy, and thought leadership. Key topics and themes include the following:

- **Convergence**—Show how centralized data, connected technology, and integrated workflows are increasing cross-industry collaboration, enabling design and manufacturing convergence and making possible connected design-to-make and/or design-to-build processes with a seamless flow of data.
 - How are you borrowing and combining strategies and processes from previously separate industries?
 - Can you share projects featuring integrated BIM workflows that span the entire design-to-make process?
 - How are your workflows enabling collaboration across disciplines and roles?
- **Automation**—Amplify how automating tasks with either software or hardware can streamline workflows, support customization, improve production efficiency, increase productivity, and maximize performance.
 - How are you using intelligent robotics to streamline work and support your teams?
 - How do tools like computational design and machine learning help you design more creatively and build more efficiently?
 - How are you using simulation to assess and optimize designs and speed iteration?
- **Sustainability**—Showcase new ideas and innovations that produce more sustainable outcomes and greater positive impact in our communities and across the world.
 - What are you doing to reduce the environmental impact of your projects? How are you generating less waste, reducing use of new materials, and building more efficiently?
 - How has your company reduced its carbon footprint?
- **Generative Design**—Demonstrate how generative design can be used to solve complex engineering challenges based on parameters such as performance or spatial requirements, materials, manufacturing methods, and cost constraints.
 - How have you implemented generative design in product development, including the automation of design exploration, geometry creation, or validation?
 - Do you have examples of using generative design for analysis and optimization?
 - How you are integrating generative design across BIM applications?
- **Cloud Collaboration**—Show how cloud-based collaboration and data management allow your teams to orchestrate design and engineering work more easily and efficiently.
 - How have you moved production to the cloud to connect distributed teams?

- How are you combining technologies or customizing workflows to increase collaboration?
- How are you scaling production pipelines for digital content creation, whether for design visualization or entertainment, including animation and VFX?
- **Connected Data**—Explain how a cloud platform, open data standards, and a connected partner ecosystem support integrated data workflows from design to operations.
 - Do you have a project demonstrating how data integration better enables generative design, collaboration, or design automation?
 - How are you connecting APIs with cloud-based models?
 - How are you approaching Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) and Product Data Management (PDM) to improve outcomes?
- **Digital Construction**—Demonstrate how you are improving outcomes by digitizing the construction process.
 - How are you digitizing the site office and construction site to enable you to better connect stakeholders and improve decision making?
 - How are you using BIM to reduce risk, improve outcomes, and maintain a single source of truth from initial concepting through construction—and into building operations and management?
 - How are you adopting industrialized construction? How are you employing prefabrication, Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA), or advanced manufacturing techniques?
- **Emerging Technologies**—Explain how new technologies can change what’s possible in how we make and build.
 - How are you using immersive technologies like virtual reality and augmented reality to share work with diverse stakeholders in an experiential way?
 - How are you using the possibilities for “smart” products, buildings, and cities to gather and organize data, empower better decision-making, and create better consumer experiences, including the development of digital twins?
 - How are you using additive manufacturing and new subtractive techniques to increase design freedom or improve sustainability?
- **Future of Work**—Showcase how you’re adopting new technologies, platforms, and processes to enable greater success from individuals and teams.
 - How have you adapted to the requirements of the pandemic lockdown and what lessons will you apply to work processes and work environments moving forward?
 - How are you supporting continuous professional learning and integrating training into daily business practices?

Note: Download the *Proposal Worksheet* from the [AU 2021 proposals page](#) for a complete list of the topics we’re looking for this year. Submitting on these topics will give your proposal the best chance of acceptance.

When can I submit a proposal for AU 2021?

You can submit your proposal between March 30 and April 30, 2021. Submit as early as possible to get more votes from the AU community.

Can I submit a proposal in any language for AU 2021?

We're currently accepting English language proposals only. There may be opportunities to submit proposals in additional languages later.

How do I submit my proposal?

Submit your proposal via the [AU 2021 proposals page](#). You'll need an Autodesk ID to sign in. If you don't already have an Autodesk ID, you'll be prompted to create one. Also available on this page—we recommend drafting your ideas offline using the *Proposal Worksheet* and viewing sample proposals prior to submitting. Do not submit test proposals.

Can I propose a class for an audience with any level of experience?

Yes. Instructional content for all experience levels is welcome. We ask that you designate the level of skill or experience people should have to get the most from your content:

- **Foundational** – All who are new to the industry or software, including primary and secondary students. **Note:** This is not the typical AU audience and few classes are taught at this level.
- **Associate** – Entry-level professionals, including students and recent graduates.
- **Professional** – Mid-career and seasoned professionals; often includes post-secondary university graduates.
- **Expert** – Senior professionals with years of experience and advanced skills; often includes those with advanced degrees or certification.
- **Not Applicable** – Content is not skills-based and is of interest to any audience; often includes thought leadership sessions or case studies, industry talks, and panels. **Note:** Managers and executives, C-level staff, VPs, and decision makers who oversee business operations are often most interested in these types of sessions.

What class formats will be offered at AU 2021?

We're accepting proposals for four primary class types this year:

- **Industry talks** – Lecture format for sharing thought leadership, industry insights, case studies, and other innovative experiences. No product demonstration is required.
- **Instructional demos** – Skills-based instructional format sharing workflows, processes, tips and tricks, and Autodesk product knowledge. In-depth product demonstrations are featured.
- **Panels** – Conversational format with 3-5 experts facilitated by the speaker showcasing viewpoints and insights on an industry topic.
- **Autodesk Product Briefings** – Autodesk employees who are product experts share updates, road maps, and insider views of product development efforts.

Note: The AU 2021 Call for Proposals is for classes only. Other content types such as Theater talks and articles will be addressed separately.

How will classes be delivered at AU 2021?

AU 2021 is a digital event, and delivery methods will vary based on class format. Some classes may be recorded prior to the event and available on demand, while others may be delivered/streamed live during the event and recorded at that time. Formal delivery specifications will be communicated to approved speakers. After the conference, your content

will be accessible for free on the Autodesk University website, part of the AU year-round learning experience.

Who is eligible to be an AU speaker?

AU speakers are experts in their field, presenting professional innovations and insights that can help advance their industry. The AU audience expects a dynamic, polished, and professional learning experience and subject mastery is essential. We welcome both experienced and first-time speakers.

What are the technical requirements for speaking at AU?

AU speakers must be able to capture high-quality video and audio. At minimum you need a good computer, microphone or headset, web camera, and a reliable Internet connection. We'll review technical specs with approved speakers.

Are speakers compensated?

Speaking at AU helps you broadcast your expertise and build your reputation. In addition, we provide an honorarium of US\$500 per class, issued in full to the primary speaker listed on the submission form. Co-speakers, panelists, and Autodesk employees are not eligible for honorariums.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

You may submit multiple proposals, using a new form for each. However, if you've never presented at AU, it's unlikely that more than one class proposal will be accepted.

Can I submit the same proposal from past AU events?

If you have submitted a class proposal in previous years, we do not recommend submitting the exact same proposal. Consider proposing a follow-up class that takes the topic further. We encourage proposals that build on previous topics, business practices, or product workflows.

How do I add the names of my co-presenters?

If your class is approved, you'll be able to add the names of co-presenters and/or panelists online in the Speaker Resource Center (SRC).

Can I change or update my proposal?

Yes. You can make edits until the submission period closes on April 30. To access, sign in to the [AU website](#) and click on the arrow next to your name/photo in the upper right. Select *My Proposals* from the drop-down menu. Note that changes will not be possible once the submission period closes and proposals enter the review phase. If your proposal is accepted, you will be able to make further changes at that time.

Will voting on class proposals be available this year?

Yes. We invite the extended AU community to review proposal submissions online March 30 to May 12 and recommend those that resonate with their interests. Do not submit test proposals this year—proposal submissions are immediately displayed on the website. Each proposal will have a unique URL to share with your social networks. All proposals will also be available on

the Community Voting page. The earlier you submit, the more votes you can accrue. Note that votes are only one of many factors we consider in selecting AU classes.

What is involved in the proposal selection process?

Proposals go through an extensive review process. We consider how well proposals align with the specified topics and themes, industry trends and best practices, the holistic AU experience, AU community votes, and how content will support year-round learning initiatives globally.

How and when will I know if my proposal has been accepted?

Check the status of your proposal by selecting *My Proposals* on the AU website drop-down menu beginning in early June. Approved speakers will receive an email also in early June.

How many proposals are accepted each year?

We're accepting fewer than 300 classes this year. We routinely receive more than 2,000 proposals.

If my proposal is selected, what are the next steps?

If your proposal is accepted, you'll be expected to meet the program's requirements, including the timely submission of class materials such as recorded videos, handouts, presentation decks, sample data files, and other important resources to aid learning and professional development.

- **Class materials**
 - You will create a class handout and a slide presentation that will be available on the AU website. AU templates will be provided.
 - Some classes may be delivered via video recording, while others may be delivered live during a designated timeframe and recorded then. Exact deliverables will be discussed with approved speakers.
- **Additional requirements**
 - Sign the AU contributor agreement.
 - Attend or view speaker training calls and webinars.
 - Ensure your content aligns with your accepted class proposal.
 - Communicate all relevant AU information to your co-speakers and panelists (if applicable).

Who owns my session's intellectual property once it's accepted and posted to the AU website?

As an AU speaker, you grant Autodesk a perpetual, unlimited, royalty-free, worldwide right and license to print, reprint, distribute, use, display, and redistribute all or any portion of the session's materials. These are licensed under [Creative Commons](#). You'll find details in the AU Speaker Agreement once accepted.

Where can I find general information about the AU 2021 conference?

Visit the [AU website](#) for the latest information on dates, registration, cost, and more. Check the event [FAQ page](#) for details as they become available.

Who can I contact with questions on my proposal?

Email au.speaker@autodeskuniversity.com with questions about proposal submissions.