E-Team Qualification Phase Guidelines

The E-Teams Qualification Phase gives student teams the opportunity to receive rapid response on the fit and eligibility of their innovation for the E-Team program, as well as receive personalized feedback, before completing a full Stage 1 grant proposal.

While the Qualification Phase is optional, VentureWell strongly encourages teams to take advantage of this opportunity to check your eligibility and strengthen your Stage 1 proposal prior to submission. If your innovation is a good fit for the E-Teams Program, you will be formally invited to submit a Stage 1 proposal.

Please note: Teams do not need to be from a member institution to submit a Qualification Phase application. Teams must submit their applications for Qualification Phase by the deadline of August 21.

Why should you submit an application for the Qualification Phase?

- **Rapid response:** Teams will receive a response on their application within a week, prior to spending time and effort writing a full E-Team grant proposal and requiring your institution to obtain VentureWell membership.
- **Personalized feedback:** VentureWell staff will offer personalized feedback on your application during a one-on-one virtual meeting, helping you to strengthen your Stage 1 proposal before submission.
- **Exclusive webinar:** Teams whose applications for the Qualification Phase are successful, and who are invited to submit a Stage 1 proposal, can take part in an exclusive informational webinar to get tips for navigating your university's administrative system and the support you need to complete your Stage 1 application.
- **Formal Invitation:** If you're invited to submit a grant proposal for Stage 1, you'll have a formal invitation to share with university administration to help expedite the membership process (renewal or obtaining new membership) and institutional support.

**Timeline**

- **August 21:** Qualification Phase Applications (optional) DUE
- **August 27:** Notifications for Qualification Phase Applicants by this date
- **September 2 & 3:** Stage 1 Invited Applicants attend required webinar
- **October 2:** Completed Stage 1 E-Team grant proposals DUE
Are you eligible?

To submit an application for Qualification Phase, you should be:

- Working on a physical product that addresses a significant social, health, or environmental challenge and will have a positive impact on the world.
- A team of two or more students enrolled at a US-based college or university who are leading venture development and have a role in decision-making, regardless of the origin of the idea or invention.

*If invited to submit a Stage 1 proposal, you and your university will have to fulfill other E-Team Program eligibility requirements (see below).*

Is your technology or product a fit for the program?

Please read the below list carefully to see if your product or project is a fit for the E-Team program.

*Your technology/project/product is a fit if:*

- It is an engineered, physical product that is different from other competing technologies
- It can potentially scale to leverage a large commercial opportunity
- It addresses a large social, environmental, or economic problem
- There is a clearly articulated positive social impact
- There is a plausible path to commercialization

*Many E-Team inventions and innovations fall into one of the following categories:*

- Biomedical devices, health care diagnostics, and/or global health technologies
- Clean technologies related to renewable energy, energy storage, agriculture, or water
- Green chemistry and sustainable materials
- Technologies for low-resource settings (US and/or internationally) that address poverty and basic human needs such as affordable energy, clean water, sanitation, health and medical devices, agriculture, and other income-generating tools
Other compelling technologies beyond those listed above that meet the program criteria will also be considered if there is a strong and logical description of the product's social or environmental impact.

Examples of projects that are not a fit for the E-Team grant program:
- Projects without any student involvement
- Faculty-driven projects in which participating students have low decision-making power to apply learning from the E-team workshops.
- Pure research projects without any defined commercial applications or potential
- Therapeutics and drugs (due to their long technical development timeline and time to market)
- Web-based or mobile apps that don't require significant technical innovation
- Projects without a clear technology invention or innovation
- Projects that don't address a path to commercialization
- One-time projects that are not scalable
- Projects without a clearly articulated social and/or environmental impact
- Projects that do not involve an emphasis on entrepreneurship and/or that begin and end in the classroom. The student team leaders should show intent to move the technology beyond the classroom.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted via VentureWell's online proposal system. Anyone on your team may serve as the applicant on a submission. All deadlines end at 11:59 pm Eastern Time unless otherwise indicated. To start, you'll need to have a VentureWell account. You can create an account in a few simple steps. To access an existing account or to create a new one, click here. Once you have a VentureWell account, you may start, save, stop and return to your online submission at anytime before submitting.

Submit your Qualification Phase application in a few simple steps!
- Log into your VentureWell account.
- Navigate to “Open Opportunities” and click the Qualification Phase Application.
- Answer the questions about your technology/project/ product and team.
- Submit your form, and receive a response within one week of submission.

Next Steps

You will be notified of your fit and eligibility status within a week of submission. If your project is a good fit you will receive an official invitation to submit a Stage 1 proposal, along
with instructions on how to schedule up your one-on-one meeting with an E-Team staff member and details about the required webinar.

If you are invited to submit a Stage 1 proposal, in addition to the above eligibility requirements, you will need to:

- **Be from a VentureWell Member institution.** Your institution must be a VentureWell member at the time you submit your Stage 1 E-Team application. It’s easy to become a member, someone at your college/university just needs to pay the annual fee of $999. To check if your university is already a member, check this list: [https://venturewell.org/venturewell-member-list/](https://venturewell.org/venturewell-member-list/)

- **Demonstrate Institutional support.** All teams are required to obtain verification of support from a Principal Investigator (PI), Administrative Contact (AC), and Department Chair (DC). See “Required Verifications of Support” section of the Stage 1 guidelines for details.

- **Thoroughly review the Stage 1 guidelines.** Take time to review the steps and procedures for submitting a full proposal in our system. This includes submitting a 5 page proposal narrative, team resumes, and letters of support. **Please note:** This full proposal will be subject to an external review process and acceptance into Stage 1 is not guaranteed.

- **Be Committed.** You intend to explore the commercialization opportunity for your innovation.

_Teams who are not invited to submit may also request feedback._

**Contact us**

For questions about the E-Team Program contact [ddangelo@venturewell.org](mailto:ddangelo@venturewell.org).

For questions about the application process or grant funding contact [grants@venturewell.org](mailto:grants@venturewell.org).