

Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship (QIF) India 2026 FAQs

Team Composition

1. Can students from different advisors or departments form a team?

Yes, as long as both the students meet the criteria for participation. Note that the students forming the team need to be from the same institute.

2. Can a student be part of multiple teams? Can a team submit multiple proposals?

Yes. A student may be part of multiple teams and a team may submit multiple proposals. The funds are provided to the winning team's institute department(s) to be used at the department's discretion.

3. Can a team include one student from a QIF school, and one from a non-QIF eligible school?

No. The money is awarded as a Fellowship through the eligible school(s) attended by the winning students. All the entrants must be enrolled in the same QIF eligible school for the entire academic year 2026-27.

4. Can the two team members be from different QIF eligible schools?

No. Both team members should be from the same eligible school.

Eligibility

5. Can students without advisors participate?

No. The students are required to find faculty advisor/sponsor from the same institute to recommend the innovation. The faculty recommendations are an important factor in the judging process.

6. Does the advisor have to be a full-time faculty at the institute?

Yes. All faculty advisors must be full-time faculties at the same QIF eligible institute as the student team.

7. I am graduating soon, am I still eligible?

Students are eligible if they are enrolled for the entire QIF 2026 Fellowship academic year (academic year 2026-27). Therefore, students who intend to graduate prior to the conclusion of the QIF 2026 Fellowship academic year are not eligible.

8. Can previous QIF applicants apply again?

Of course! In fact, we encourage former applicants to submit new proposals, or update their original proposals and resubmit them using the current proposal guidelines.

Awards

9. Is there an "award quota" for schools or regions?

No. This is an open contest between all eligible schools. It is possible that two or more teams from one school may each win a fellowship.

10. What if the applicant also receives a non-QIF fellowship?

Winning a non-QIF fellowship does not preclude the student from being awarded the title of QIF Fellowship winner nor their department from receiving the associated funds.

11. Do funds expire after 1 year?

No. The department can roll the awarded funds over to the next year. Each winner's department is allowed complete flexibility on how to use the funds.

12. How many Fellowships will be awarded?

QIF Fellowships will be awarded to at least twelve winning teams.

13. What will Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. provide to Fellowship winners in addition to the financial awards?

Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. will also make the following benefits reasonably available to QIF 2026 winners during the QIF Fellowship academic year:

- One or more mentor(s) for each winning team
- Opportunities to regularly interact with researchers in Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.
- Travel arrangements to a Sponsor facility(ies) for select QIF events, if any.

Proposal Process

14. Is there a template available for the proposal?

Yes. Templates will be provided and will be available on the website for download. The proposal must fit onto three pages (as suggested in the template) with an

optional fourth page for bibliography/references. Proposals violating the page limits may not be considered for the Fellowship.

15. What is the proposal submission requirements?

The submission includes the following documents: proposal, student CVs, letter(s) of recommendation, signed agreement form, and student and institute FCPA. The documents must be submitted through the online submission portal (link available from the QIF India 2026 website) before deadline mentioned in the timeline tab on the website, for consideration in this QIF India 2026 program. For the agreement form, download the official rules and sign at the marked location in the rules document thus agreeing to the competition rules.

16. I am an entrant enrolled in Masters or PhD program. Can I use ideas related to my thesis work (or on-going research work) to form a proposal application?

The Masters or PhD entrants from each team may elect to choose ideas from their on-going or planned research and/or thesis projects in accordance with their university policies.

17. What is the judging process?

The final winners are selected via a two-step process: (i) Reviewers from Qualcomm Research select a list of finalists based on their applications; and (ii) After all of the finalists have presented their proposals, the judging panel selects the winners.

18. Will feedback be provided on the rejected submissions?

No. The decision of the judging panel will be final.

For further Information,

Please refer to <https://www.qualcomm.com/research/university-relations/innovation-fellowship/2026-india>

Or direct your questions to: innovation.fellowship.india@qti.qualcomm.com