

# FAQs

## Application Rules

### Are newly admitted students eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

Yes, students who start their PhD in the Fall of 2025 are eligible to apply for the Fellowship. The advisor's recommendation can mention that the student is registered for Fall.

### Are there any citizenship or permanent residency requirements?

No.

### Can students without advisors participate?

Sure, but they are encouraged to find a like-minded faculty to recommend the innovation.

### Can visiting scholars or post docs be applicants?

Unfortunately, visiting scholars are not eligible to apply for the Fellowship at this time. You are welcome to discuss your proposal and be guided by your visiting scholar associate or your faculty advisor.

### Can the same student submit two applications?

Sure, just go through the application process twice and submit two completely different sets of applications.

### Is there a preference/requirement on the seniority of the students?

Since this is a research focus fellowship, we are limiting this to PhD students. This means that each student must be enrolled in their PhD program for the whole academic year of 2025–2026 to be eligible to apply (i.e., enrolled into a PhD program starting Autumn 2025 AND graduate no earlier than at the end of Spring 2026).

### Are there any enrollment requirements?

Students need to be enrolled in a full-time PhD program for the entire academic year 2025- 2026.

## Proposal

### What does "innovation proposal" mean?

- Introduction, which describes the problem and current state of the art (i.e., limitations or lack of current solutions)
- Proposal, which describes the innovation idea, and what you propose to do
- One-year horizon, which explains the target goals for one year and preferably also includes the long-term milestones

- Description of the student's strength and proposed contribution to the innovation for achieving the milestones. Also describe why this student is better suited for this proposal than anyone else.

### What size of proposal do you expect?

Proposals are limited to 3 pages, including figures and tables. Additional pages containing only cited references are allowed.

### Should the proposed ideas be viable for commercialization? Should I include a business plan?

Not at all. This is a fellowship intended to encourage research. Proposals can be about pure research.

### Should the proposal be in line with Qualcomm's commercial interests and products?

No. We judge proposals primarily based on research novelty and student's strength to execute the research.

### Who owns the intellectual property from the applications?

Students / University

### Who owns the intellectual property developed during the course of the Fellowship?

Students / University

### Does the proposal have to be the same as the research plan for your PhD thesis for the next year?

The proposal can be different from your thesis.

### If winning proposal is for non-primary research project, how many hours of work/week do you expect the winners to spend?

There is no strict requirement on how much time you are expected to spend on your project. We expect the winning projects to be interesting and exciting enough that the winners will want to spend time on the project. In addition to the Fellowship, Qualcomm will assist by providing a mentor, and the recommending faculty would be another likely resource for help.

### Is there any preference on incremental vs. long-term ideas?

### No, both types of proposals are welcome. Are proposals outside of the listed areas acceptable?

Yes. That is just a list of suggested areas, but the proposal should not be limited to that.

### Can the recommending faculty be from another university?

We want the first recommender to be from the same (eligible) school that the applicant is enrolled in. Second recommender may be from another school.

### What should be the scope of the recommendation letter from the faculty?

- Why the proposal is innovative.
- Why the proposal is important.
- Why the student is likely to succeed in the proposal.

### Should recommendation letters be confidential?

An open letter is preferred. But if your advisor wishes to keep it confidential, they can send the letter directly to [innovation.fellowship.europe@qti.qualcomm.com](mailto:innovation.fellowship.europe@qti.qualcomm.com), including the relevant details.

### Any requirements on length of recommendation letters?

Not particularly, but 1-2 pages should be enough.

### Can Qualcomm release the proposals of the past winners?

Qualcomm does not publish winning proposals, but you are welcome to visit the winners' webpages to learn more about their research.