

Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship 2015 FAQs

Team Composition

Can students from different advisors, departments or schools form a team?

Yes. As long as both students meet the criteria for participation.

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. However, only \$50,000 may be awarded per student winner per year, regardless of the number of winning teams or proposals in which that student participates. The funds are provided to the winning student's department to be used in the department's discretion.

Can a team include one student from a QInF school, and one from a non-QInF eligible school?

No. The money is awarded as a Fellowship through the eligible school(s) attended by the winning students.

Can the two team members be from different QInF schools?

Yes, for example one from Berkeley and one from MIT.

Eligibility

Can students without advisors participate?

Yes; however students are encouraged to find like-minded faculty to recommend the innovation. The faculty recommendations are an important factor in the judging process.

Are newly admitted students eligible to apply for the fellowship?

Yes. Students who begin a PhD program in the Fall semester of a Fellowship academic year are eligible to apply for a fellowship for that academic year. The advisor's recommendation should mention that the student has been admitted for the upcoming Fall semester.

When do I have to be enrolled to be eligible to apply?

You do not have to be enrolled at the time that you apply for a Fellowship, but winners must be enrolled for the entire QInF Fellowship academic year.

I am graduating soon, am I still eligible?

Students are eligible if they are enrolled for the entire QInF Fellowship academic year. Therefore, students who intend to graduate prior to the conclusion of the QInF Fellowship academic year are not eligible.

Can previous QInF 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

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

No. This is an open contest between all eligible schools. It is possible that one school may win more than one award.

What if the applicant also receives a non-QInF fellowship?

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

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.

How many Fellowships will be awarded?

QInF Fellowships will be awarded to at least eight winning teams of 2 students. Hence, financial awards of at least \$800,000 will be awarded to the winners of each QInF competition (e.g., 8 teams x 2 students x \$50,000 = \$800,000 total).

What will Qualcomm provide to Fellowship winners in addition to the financial awards?

Qualcomm will also make the following benefits reasonably available to QInF winners during the QInF Fellowship academic year:

- A mentor for each winning team
- Opportunities to regularly interact with researchers in the Qualcomm Research Centers which may include use of guest offices
- Travel arrangements to Qualcomm facilities for select QInF events
- Expedited process for internship applications

Proposal Process

Is there a template available for the proposal?

No. The proposal must fit onto three pages with an optional fourth page for bibliography/references. The proposal should be easily readable and one or two-column layouts are allowed.

Are proposals for projects that are aligned with Qualcomm's business interests favored?

We hope that the Fellowship applications will introduce us to new areas of research. As such, we encourage proposals in both new areas that are not yet aligned with Qualcomm's business interests and areas that are so aligned and do not favor one category over the other.

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.

Can QInF applicants from previous years receive input on their application?

Yes! Please contact us (innovation.fellowship@qualcomm.com) and we will provide input on your proposal.