

2025 Ray of Hope Accelerator | Application Questions

Apply to join the 2025 Ray of Hope Accelerator.

The application period for the 2025 cohort opens on March 3rd, 2025, and closes on April 25th, 2025 (11:59pm EST).

We're looking for the world's most promising and impactful nature-inspired startups to join our next accelerator cohort. Learn more about the accelerator: <https://biomimicry.org/innovation/accelerator/>.

This application takes approximately 45 to 90 minutes to complete. It includes questions about your company's nature-inspired solution, technology/product/service/business model, leadership team and finances, as well as the recording of a 1 min pitch video.

Use this PDF version of the application to review and prepare in advance.

Thank you for your time and effort, and we look forward to learning more about you and your startup!

Contact Information

First name	
Last Name	
Title/Role	
Email Address	
LinkedIn Profile URL	

Startup Details

Startup Name	
Startup Website URL	
What year was your company founded?	
Startup Tagline	10 words
Startup Description	150 words
In what country is your company incorporated?	Dropdown menu selection with list of all countries.

<p>What corporation type is your company?</p>	<p>Dropdown menu selection with the following choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LLC ● B-Corp ● Public Benefit Corporation ● C-Corp ● Not Incorporated ● Other
<p>Which industries are relevant to your company?</p> <p><i>Select up to three.</i></p>	<p>Dropdown menu selection with tags.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chemistry and Materials 2. Built Environment 3. Manufacturing and Advanced Robotics 4. Renewable Energy 5. Transportation and Mobility 6. Food and Agriculture 7. Conservation and Remediation 8. Life Sciences and Medtech 9. Biotechnology 10. Consumer Products, Cosmetics, Textiles 11. Water 12. BlueTech 13. ClimateTech
<p>Video URL: 60-second elevator-pitch</p> <p><i>Explain in a 60-second elevator pitch what you do, why you are the best fit to scale your startup and why you are a fit for the Ray of Hope Accelerator. This video should be recorded specifically for the purpose of this application and not be professionally produced (you can use your phone or computer camera).</i></p> <p><i>Upload your video to Youtube (mark the video as unlisted if you don't want other people finding it) and test that the link works.</i></p>	
<p>Pitch Deck PDF</p>	<p>Upload button</p>

Startup Team

Please list up to 3 founding team members by providing their name, title and email address. Information for at least 1 founding team member is required, this can be the same as the initial contact information. (Section will be repeated 3 times).

First name	
Last Name	
Title <i>Hint: Select all that apply.</i>	Dropdown menu with tag selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO • CTO • CFO • COO • CSO • Sole Founder • Co-Founder
Email Address	
LinkedIn Profile URL	

Tell us why your team is the right team to grow your startup. <i>Tell us about your expertise, your knowledge of your customer base, your experience in this sector and in the startup space, the diversity of skills on your team. Why is your team the winning team?</i>	200 words
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Your Solution

What problem or need are you solving?	200 words
Please describe your product or service.	200 words
How have you secured your intellectual property?	200 words
How is your solution inspired by nature? Please explain the science behind your technology and/or business model.	200 words
Please link to any relevant original or supporting research about your nature-inspired innovation. <i>If applicable, link to AskNature webpages. www.asknature.org</i>	No character limit.
Which of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals does your organization address? Select all that apply. <i>Select up to three. UN's SDGs: https://sdgs.un.org/goals</i>	Dropdown menu selection with the 17 SDGs goals
What are the social and environmental impacts of your solutions? <i>How does your startup make the world a better place (in terms of sustainability strategies, material choices, manufacturing processes, supply chain, carbon emissions reduction etc.)?</i>	200 words

Startup Progress & Strategy

<p>Please share any significant traction you have made to date.</p> <p><i>Tell us how you gained interest and validation from your target audience, customers, and the market. It could include but it is not limited to: LOIs, endorsements, customers, partnerships and collaborations etc.</i></p>	200 words
Do you have revenue?	30 words
<p>Have you raised any funding for your startup? If so, please select the amount of your largest investment to date.</p> <p><i>Funding sources include but are not limited to; Friends and Family Funds, Grants, Angel Investment, Venture Capital Investment, etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$5,000,000+ USD ● \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000 ● \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 ● \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 ● \$250,000 - \$500,000 ● \$100,000 - \$250,000 ● \$50,000 - \$100,000 ● \$0 - \$50,000 ● No Funding Received
Have you participated in any accelerators, competitions etc.?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No
If yes; which one(s) and when?	No character limits.
Who are your competitors and what makes your solution unique?	200 words
<p>What are your next major company milestones?</p> <p><i>Briefly outline your timeline. What are your next key milestones and what challenges are you facing in accomplishing them?</i></p>	200 words

Ray of Hope Accelerator

How did you learn about the Ray of Hope Accelerator?	<p>Dropdown menu selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TBI Staff ● Alumni ● Word of mouth ● Search Engine ● Social media (Instagram, LinkedIn) ● The Biomimicry Institute newsletter ● Event or conference ● News or media coverage (article, blog, podcast etc.) ● University outreach ● Partner organization ● An investor ● Previously applied ● Other
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Participation in the Ray of Hope Accelerator requires a commitment of 3-4 hours per week, including a 1-hour live session and additional program-related work. Additionally, a mandatory in-person one-week gathering will take place during the last week of September 2025, requiring attendance from two executive team members. Do you confirm that you and your team can meet these participation requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
In applying for the 2025 Ray of Hope Accelerator, I agree with the Biomimicry Institute's Privacy Policy and Terms .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
I'd like to receive newsletters, insights, resources and event invitations from the Biomimicry Institute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No

Optional Questions: Diversity; Equity; and Inclusion

<i>The Biomimicry Institute is dedicated to increasing diversity and inclusion across its programs. We ask the following questions to better understand the diversity of our applicant pool. Sharing this information is voluntary, and responses will not impact your application evaluation. We will request more detailed DEI information from selected teams.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree to participate. • Prefer not to answer
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How does your founding team self-identify in terms of gender? Please check all that apply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woman/Women • Man/Men • Non-binary • Genderqueer/Genderfluid • Trans • Two Spirit (for Indigenous respondents) • Other • Prefer not to answer
How would your founding team describe their racial/ethnic identities? Please check all that apply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African • African American • Asian • Hispanic / Latin(o/a/x) • Indigenous / Native American / Aboriginal • Middle Eastern / SWANA • Multiracial • Pacific Islander / Native Hawaiian • White / Caucasian / European • Other race / Ethnicity • Prefer not to answer