



Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an application fee?

No, there is no application fee.

Who can enter?

Inventors, entrepreneurs, start-ups, non-profits and university researchers are all welcome to enter the challenge!

Do I need to have a registered company to apply?

No, university researchers and research teams are encouraged to apply.

Does an applicant have to give up any equity?

No, no equity is taken.

When do I need to submit my application?

You or your team leader needs to complete and submit all the application materials before the deadline, 11:59pm CT on August 1, 2025.

What are the eligibility criteria for the BioChallenge program?

NOBIC seeks early to mid-stage start-ups in the medical device and biotech spaces. Specific areas of focus can be found. We encourage those who are developing a product and/or service in the healthcare areas outlined to apply.

How do you select finalists for the BioChallenge?

NOBIC, along with its judging committee made up of researchers, founders, clinicians and investors, evaluate all applications based on value, strength, and execution plan. The company strength for each category is evaluated using multiple metrics:

Value – product, customer validation, business model & healthcare economics, competition, IP, market opportunity, and patient benefit

Strength – team strength, development plan, responsiveness/coachable, freedom to operate, regulatory & clinical burden, funding to date, resources needed.

Execution plan – stage of development, evidence, time to market, traction, partnerships & relationships, time to key milestones, upcoming funding Interaction with NOBIC and program sponsors is also used as an evaluation metric.

We just raised a Series E, can we still apply?

Yes! NOBIC encourages applications from companies at all stages of fundraising, from friends and family to seed and beyond to apply to the BioChallenge. Preference is given to companies with transformative potential and those who will benefit the most from working with NOBIC and the BioChallenge sponsors.

We are developing a transformative healthcare technology at a university research lab. Can we apply?

Yes! Ventures involving technologies licensed from universities or research labs are encouraged to apply.

I noticed there is coaching available for finalists. What is this like?

All finalists are offered coaching appointments to meet with subject matter and pitch experts to refine their presentations and be ready for the finalist pitch-off and awards announcement event on October 29, 2026. Coaching will be held online via Zoom.

Do I need to relocate to participate in the BioChallenge?

No, but we hope one reason you're applying is to gain access to the Louisiana ecosystem. This is a great way to do it!

We are based outside the U.S. Can we apply to the BioChallenge?

Yes, the BioChallenge is a global competition. International applicants are welcomed and are encouraged to apply. You must be in person to compete (travel stipends provided)

I entered previously but didn't receive an award. Should I enter again?

Yes, you should apply again if the proposal isn't identical. The needs of the industry and sponsor interests are constantly evolving and can change from year to year. Any updates that took place over the past year should be highlighted in your application.

What are the key dates I should be aware of?

- August 1— Application Deadline
- September- Finalists Selected
- October 28- BioChallenge VIP Dinner Reception
- October 29— Finalist Pitch + Award Announcements

If I'm not selected as a finalist, will I receive a written explanation?

Unfortunately, due to the high number of applications, we cannot provide a written explanation to every applicant who isn't selected as a finalist. Most times, it is due to not being properly aligned with the call for applications.