



2024 Ray of Hope Accelerator Program Application Questions

Apply to join the 2024 Ray of Hope Accelerator.

The application period for the 2024 cohort opens on March 11th, 2024, and closes on May 3rd, 2024 (11:59pm EST).

We're looking for the world's most promising and impactful nature-inspired startups to join our next accelerator cohort.

This application takes approximately 45 to 90 minutes to complete as it includes questions about your company's nature-inspired solution, technology/product/service/business model, leadership team and finances.

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

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

Startup Details

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| Startup Name | |
| Startup URL | |
| What year was your company founded? | |
| Startup Tagline | 50 characters |
| Startup Description | 280 characters |
| In what country is your company incorporated? | Dropdown menu selection with list of all countries |



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| <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 • Non-Profit • 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 and why you are a great fit to grow your nature-inspired startup. 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). Test that the link works and is uploaded to Youtube. Mark the video as unlisted if you don't want other people finding it.</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).

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

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| 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> | 800 characters |
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Your Solution

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| What problem or need are you solving? | 400 characters |
| Please describe your product or service. | 400 characters |
| How is your solution inspired by nature? Please explain the science behind your technology and/or business model. | 400 characters |
| Please link to any relevant original or supporting research about your nature-inspired innovation. | 400 characters |
| <i>If applicable, link to AskNature webpages. www.asknature.org</i> | |
| Which of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals does your organization address? Select all that apply. | Dropdown menu selection with the 17 SDGs goals |
| <i>Select up to three. UN's SDGs: https://sdgs.un.org/goals</i> | |
| What are the social and environmental impacts of your solutions? | 400 characters |
| <i>How does your startup make the world a better place (in terms of sustainability strategies, material choices, manufacturing processes etc.)?</i> | |

Startup Progress & Strategy

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| <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> | 400 characters |
| <p>Do you have revenue?</p> | 150 characters. |
| <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 |
| <p>Have you participated in any accelerators, competitions etc.?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No |
| <p>If yes; which one(s) and when?</p> | |
| <p>Who are your competitors and what makes your solution unique?</p> | 400 characters |
| <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> | 400 characters |

Ray of Hope Accelerator Program

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| <p>How did you learn about the Ray of Hope Accelerator Program?</p> | <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 |
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| I agree with the Ray of Hope Accelerator Program's 2024 Terms of Use and Privacy Policy | • Other |
| | • Yes |
| | • No |
| I'd like to receive newsletters, insights, resources and event invitations from the Biomimicry Institute. | • Yes |
| | • No |

Optional Questions: Diversity; Equity; and Inclusion

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| <i>The Biomimicry Institute is dedicated to increasing diversity and inclusion across our programs. In an effort to measure our impact and make a change; please take a moment to answer the questions below. Participation in this survey is optional; by selecting "prefer not to answer". This will not affect your application for the Ray of Hope Accelerator and is not considered as part of your application.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree to participate. • Prefer not to answer |
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| Please select the most accurate answer regarding your founding team. Select all that apply | |
| With which gender do you most identify? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male • Trans • Non-Binary • Other • Prefer not to answer |
| How would you describe yourself? Check all that apply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black / African • African American • Asian • Indigenous / Native American / Aboriginal • Hispanic / Latina / Latino / Latinx • Middle Eastern / SWANA • Pacific Islander / Native Hawaiian • White / Caucasian / European • Multiracial • Other race / ethnicity • Prefer not to answer |