

Application Guidelines

The **Rutgers Innovation Awards** recognizes distinguished innovators who have demonstrated excellence by developing a breakthrough idea, process, or technology that has shown its transformational potential to improve lives and create economic value.

Please take a look at these guidelines and considerations for submitting your application.

1. If you think your innovation is novel and needs protection, please reach out to us right away. Let us review and protect your invention. Do not submit or attach any confidential information.
2. Each application can be submitted for up to 2 categories.
3. Each applicant can submit up to 2 distinct applications not related to each other.
4. Each applicant can win only 1 award among all categories. If you have won in a previous year, you cannot reapply using the same innovation.
5. Team application is permitted for categories marked in the application portal (** symbol; this includes Rutgers Startup, Social Innovation, AI/Digital Innovation, Health Science/Biomedical Innovation, Agriculture Innovation, Physical Sciences & Engineering Innovation). All applicants need to be associated with Rutgers and have a valid Rutgers NetId and email addresses.
6. For undergraduate student innovation category, team submission is welcomed. Note that the team should only consist of current Rutgers undergraduates and cannot include a faculty or postdoc, fellows, or graduate student researchers as team members. Any applicants for the undergraduate student innovation category are expected to obtain required approvals (e.g. advisor, department chair, etc.) before applying.
7. Applications will be externally reviewed.
8. This is a competitive process, and not every category may be awarded, based on scores and reviewer feedback received.
9. For the Early Career Innovator, Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, and Postdoctoral Fellow categories: only the primary applicant/lead team member will be called on stage to receive the award plaque. Due to space constraints on the plaque, only the lead team member's name or team name can be on the plaque. If team members are added to the application, they will not be listed on the award. All team members will get certificates separately.

To prepare and support a good application for review, please attach (in permissible formats listed on the application page):

- Copy of your resume or CV (and team member resumes, if applying as a team),
- List of patents/patent applications if relevant,
- List of peer reviewed publications, press releases (html links or screenshots),
- Other supporting materials (including, but not limited to, design of prototypes, Apps, products in the market, animations of the innovations, supporting data with descriptions,

weblinks to start-up, nonconfidential pitch decks).

Reviewers will be provided with a rubric that will have the following sections (committee reserves the right to edit this rubric). Scoring rubric (on a scale of 1-10, where 10 being the highest)

Score Scale (1-10)

Novelty of the innovation	0
Significance of the problem solved	0
Competitive advantage of the innovation	0
Impact of the innovation	0
Utility and socio-economic value of the innovation	0
Total Score	0

The awards committee will notify the outcome of the application to the applicants via email in August 2026.

You can always save your application using the "Save as Draft" button at the bottom left of the screen if you wish to continue working on your application at a later time. If you applied last year, your application from previous years is saved in InfoReady. Simply scroll to the top of the page and click on the "Applications" tab to access. If desired, you can use your application from previous years as a starting point for this year's application. You can open your previous year's application in a separate window or separate tab simultaneously with your current application. For additional help with the InfoReady platform, see the [InfoReady support page](#).

Any questions: reach out to the Rutgers Innovation Awards committee at ria@research.rutgers.edu