

REGULATION

Sciencepreneur

Preamble

The **Sciencepreneur** program is an initiative of the NOVA IMPACT office at NOVA's Rectorate, which aims to provide researchers, teachers, professors, post docs and PhD students, alumni of NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA) with a plan of action to develop their science-based projects and value the research results developed within the University from an economic point of view.

This program is open to the NOVA community, which can apply in mixed teams but also individually, ensuring only that there is always at least one element from NOVA and that the research project idea has been partially or mainly developed within NOVA.

In this program, NOVA is represented by NOVA IMPACT office, hereinafter referred to as "Organization".

Title I - Scope

Article 1

Goals

The main objectives of this program are:

1. Explore, identify and analyse the best path for commercializing a lab's emerging technology or scientific breakthrough (licensing vs spin-off), including IP protection or how to value the research (e.g public policies);
2. Generate new science-based business opportunities;
3. Identify the best market opportunities for the proposed technology or scientific breakthrough and its scalability;
4. Promote the conversion of NOVA technologies or scientific breakthroughs into economic and social value;
5. Provide the participants with the mindset to create socioeconomic value out of their research.

Article 2

Promoters / Sponsors

The entities promoting the **Sciencepreneur** are NOVA and the sponsors of this initiative, designated for this purpose each year, if so decided.

Article 3

Eligibility of participants

1. Participants can be individuals who are Reserchers, professors, Post-doc and PhD students or *Alumni* from NOVA (who have completed their training for less than 3 years), individually or as a team, that must be engaged in a science-based project.
2. Teams participating must have at least one element of NOVA.
3. It is allowed the participation of elements external to the NOVA, as long as there is one element from NOVA, as defined in number 1 of this Article, and the research project idea has been partially or fully developed at NOVA.
4. To participate in the program, it is mandatory to have a science-based project that is in a stage of development that could be explored for valorization purpopses.

Article 4

Scope

1. Projects must have a strong scientific component, are innovative or disruptive.
2. Projects are welcome in any field of knowledge and have some discernible economic value.
3. The projects shall correspond to a new technology or scientific breakthrough with a potential commercial application that have not yet been funded by market-oriented investors or by scientific knowledge that could contribute fro the development of public policies among others.
4. The submitted projects must be original and based on the applicants' research work who are ultimately responsible for ensuring their originality, without any legal or contractual impediment.

Title II - Phases of the Contest

Article 5

Calendar and awards

1. To participate in the **Sciencepreneur** it is required the submission through the *online form* posted on the institutional *website* of NOVA until the 11:59pm on the date defined on the website.

2. During the **Sciencepreneur** participants will develop a Business Case that will require the practical work of the participants with the support of an assigned Mentor, as well as other members of the NOVA Mentor Network and NOVA facilities to accomplish defined milestones that will result in a final Business Case.
3. In the end of **Sciencepreneur** there will be a DEMO Day where participants will present their project developments to Venture Capitalists and experts on the topic.
4. The best project will be awarded with a final prize of **1000€**.

Article 6

Formalization and Selection of Applications

1. Registration for the Program is free of charge and the application must be formalized through the “Registration” form available on the NOVA website.
2. The selection of candidates is made by the Organization, with a maximum of 5 projects per edition.
3. Within the scope of the selection process, selection interviews may be held whenever the Organization deems it necessary.
4. The selected participants commit to participate in the program and to make their best efforts to achieve the objectives of this initiative.

Article 7

Project Development and Outcomes

1. The Business Case will consist of a final business case where the participants will, for a period of 7 weeks, develop a go-to-market strategy and understand the feasibility and potential applications of its research project.
2. To do so, participants will have access to:
 - Support and follow-up by experts from NOVA and program partners, with experience in knowledge/technology transfer and business development;
 - Regular meetings with selected coaches/mentors, who will closely follow the evolution of the participants/teams and facilitate networking opportunities;
 - Feedback/guidance from venture capitalists and science-based entrepreneurs;
 - NOVA Mentor Network and [other resources](#);
 - Connection with different schools and other research labs, depending on specific needs.
3. The Business Case can have different outcomes and conclusions such as:
 - Create a spin-off;
 - Find a licensee/partnership;

- Go back to the lab and improve the technology; or
 - Other conclusion not mentioned above.
4. When applicable, it is desirable and incentivized that teams or individuals find business-oriented members to join the projects;
 5. It is also part of the project development that teams/individuals present the outcomes to a group of experts from business and venture capital contexts that will provide feedback and if wished by both parts, work on the continuation of the project together.

Article 8

Final presentation

1. The projects will be presented at the Final Presentation Day to a panel of experts, which will evaluate the outcomes developed during the program.
2. Participants may use any multimedia device such as *PowerPoint*, audio and video projection. The maximum duration of the Presentation will be defined during the program.

Article 9

Evaluation process and award attribution

The Panel of experts will evaluate the Projects and the Final Presentation according to the following criteria:

- a) Innovative or Disruptive project and its impact on the society;
- b) Quality of the idea presented, translated through the arguments presented by the team (or individual) in relation to the necessity in the market or in the society that the solution (technologic product or service) is able to satisfy;
- c) Quality of the Business Case report;
- d) Quality of the presented go-to-market strategy (if applicable);
- e) Quality of team skills /individual to develop the project;
- f) Adequacy of the presented financial structure.

The best project will be awarded with a prize of 1000€. The jury reserves the right not to attribute any prize, divide the value of the prize in the event of the quality of the project not meet the quality criteria expected or if more than one project being equally good.

Article 10

Communication

All communication with participants will be carried out by e-mail: novaimpact@unl.pt

Title III – Rights and Intellectual Property Regulation

Article 11

Image Rights

1. By signing up to participate in the Program and in accordance with this Regulation, the participants automatically authorize the free and open use without any payment involved of their name and image in photos, files and/or digital media and content as well as in posters, films and/or spots, in any type of media and/or promotional pieces, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines, posters, banners, billboards and the Internet, for the wide dissemination of the Program results.
2. The authorization provided for in the preceding paragraph does not imply or result in any obligation of disclosure or payment.

Article 12

Confidentiality and Intellectual property (IP)

1. The panel of Experts, Mentors and the Organization of the **Sciencepreneur**, undertake to not disclose any confidential information shared throughout the program.
2. For the purposes of the program and projects developed, it is of utmost importance for the participants to understand and be acquainted with the NOVA's IP Regulation that can be found in the NOVA *website*.
3. For any candidate projects not yet legally protected in terms of IP, NOVA will provide the necessary support to address this topic, in accordance to the policy and procedures implemented at the University.

Article 13

Creation of a NOVA *Spin-off*®

1. Any project that is to be developed through the resources or inputs (such as entrepreneurship programs, mentorship and/or financial support) provided by NOVA University and for which a legal entity is created (*e.g.*, a start-up), should commit to apply to be recognized by the NOVA *Spin-off*® seal.

2. Should the application to the NOVA *Spin-off*[®] seal be deemed successful, the promoters will be eligible for all the benefits as provided in Regulation no. 157/2018, published in *Diário da República*, 2nd series
3. If a project that derives from the knowledge, inputs, mentorship, and

Title IV - Final and Transitional Provisions

Article 14

Data identity and disclosure

1. The Organisation guarantees the confidentiality of the process, as well as the anonymity of the competitors not selected for the **Sciencepreneur** program.
2. By signing up to participate in the Program in accordance with this Regulation, participants will automatically recognize and to explicitly accept that NOVA is not responsible or to be liable for any damage or loss arising from participation in the Program.

Article 15

Withdrawal

If there is any withdrawal from competing teams, the Organization may reinstate other participants in replacement of the withdrawals.

Article 16

Liability for damages

Participants in the Program exempt NOVA University Lisbon from any liability for property and/or moral damage, or any incidents caused to them resulting from participation in the Program.

Article 17

Interpretation and application

1. Any doubts regarding the interpretation and application of these Regulations will be exclusively clarified by the Organization by e-mail: novaimpact@unl.pt.
2. The Organization and the panel of experts guarantee confidentiality throughout the application and evaluation process of the projects submitted to the program.

3. The Organization reserves the right to modify this regulation for reasons of force majeure.

Lisbon, 22 of March of 2023,

Professor Isabel Rocha
Vice-Rector, NOVA University Lisbon