



# **Florida Atlantic Entrepreneurship & Innovation Institute**

## **Rules & Regulations**

- I. Eligibility Requirements**
- II. Program Requirements**
- III. Terms and Conditions**

## I. **Eligibility Requirements**

Please review all eligibility requirements before applying. In addition to the overarching eligibility requirements, undergraduate, graduate students, and faculty have additional eligibility requirements, which are listed below.

### **Venture/Project Eligibility**

- Company Makeup
  - Minimum Age: At least one team member must be 18 years of age or older. Participants under the age of 18 require written parental/guardian permission.
  - U.S.-Based/Eligibility Residency: Team founders must reside in the U.S. or hold legal status (such as a work visa) allowing them to establish and operate a company in Florida.
- Submissions must reflect the applicant's own original work and ideas.
- Venture Program Applicants: Applicants who have previously applied during a past cycle but were not selected are eligible to reapply. Applicants who have participated in other business incubator or accelerator programs outside of Florida Atlantic are also eligible to participate in the Venture Program.

### Non-profit and Hybrid Entity Companies:

Not-for-profit entities, “hybrid” entities (e.g., B Corporations), and social entrepreneurs are eligible to participate. Such applicants will be assessed using criteria modified from those used with the for-profit entity applicants.

### Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program Cohort Requirements:

- Must be Florida resident.
- Entrepreneur with a **for-profit idea, startup business, or established business** and a need to test their risks and assumptions for a new product or service.
- Be one of the following:
  - Discharged veteran with other than bad conduct or dishonorable discharge; participants must provide electronic copy of DD214 Member 4 or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs letter verifying other than bad conduct or dishonorable discharge.

- Active duty member of the United States military within 12 months of End Term of Service (ETS), or a member of the Florida National Guard or United States Reserves; participants must provide letter confirming guard/reserve or active duty status.
- Spouse or unremarried former spouse of a veteran or service member with documentation of letter verifying marriage or former marriage to a veteran or service member, their DD214 Member 4 copy or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs letter verifying other than bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or letter confirming guard/reserve or active duty status.

---

**The following business types are **not** eligible to participate:**

- Tax shelters
- Real estate syndications
- Franchises
- Movie production syndications
- Oil/gas/petroleum partnerships
- “Lifestyle” or family businesses not having potential for significant growth or the ability to scale on a national basis
- Retail
- Spin-out companies that are majority-owned by a parent company (e.g., Instagram is owned by Meta)

**Team Eligibility**

**Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Students:**

- Florida Atlantic undergraduate students must be currently enrolled at Florida Atlantic University and in good academic standing.
- If you are an international student at Florida Atlantic, please check with FAU's [International Student Services](#) office to determine if your visa allows this.

**Florida Atlantic Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students:**

- Florida Atlantic faculty, staff, and graduate students must be in good standing within their respective Florida Atlantic colleges, departments, academic, and/or administrative units.
- Team members are subject to Florida Atlantic's rules, policies, and procedures governing intellectual property (IP), conflict-of-interest, conflict-of-commitment, research misconduct, etc., as applicable to each member of the entrepreneurial team. If your company intends on commercializing Florida Atlantic intellectual property (IP), or has created or discovered an invention or technology, you must

notify the Florida Atlantic Office of [Technology Development](#).

- If you are an international student at Florida Atlantic, please check with FAU's [International Student Services](#) office to determine if your visa allows this.

**Community Member Participation**

- At least 51% of founders and executives must live in the state of Florida and be able to participate in person.

## II. Program Requirements

- Participation in all required programming based on the curriculum.
- Participants agree to comply with reasonable reporting requirements of company performance metrics to support the University and public reporting requirements. The Runway at Florida Atlantic commits to maintaining confidentiality, depersonalizing, and aggregating data for reporting purposes.
- Participants agree to keep all interactions with Florida Atlantic Entrepreneurship & Innovation Institute mentors, staff members, instructors, advisory board members, fellow entrepreneurs, and any other person or entity affiliated with the program will be conducted with professionalism and courtesy, and any disagreements or conflicts will be addressed in a respectful and constructive manner
- Ethical Operations: Participants always agree to operate as a legal and ethical organization.
- Professional Conduct: Participants commit to maintaining professionalism and courtesy in all interactions with mentors, staff, instructors, fellow entrepreneurs, and others affiliated with the Institute. Disagreements or conflicts must be addressed respectfully and constructively.
- Conflicts of Interest: Participants must report any conflicts of interest, activities, or behaviors that contradict the Institute's mission, culture, or community standards. This includes concerns related to any individual or entity associated with the Institute.

## III. Terms and Conditions

Hold Harmless: Each entrant shall indemnify, defend, and hold Florida Atlantic (and its Trustees, officers, Florida Atlantic Entrepreneurship & Innovation Institute mentors, employees, and agents) harmless from any third-party claims arising from or related to that entrant's participation in the Institute's programs, including, but not limited to, claims relating to intellectual property infringement. In no event shall Florida Atlantic (or its Trustees, officers, Florida Atlantic Entrepreneurship & Innovation Institute mentors, employees, or agents) be liable to an entrant for acts or omissions arising out of or related to the Institute, or that entrant's participation in the same.

Information within this document is periodically reviewed and revised. Please check this document regularly to ensure you are reviewing the latest version. Notice of significant modifications (if any) will be posted on the Institute's website and appended to these rules. The Institute has the final decision regarding which companies are admitted into and continue to progress during the program(s); it reserves the right to include or exclude any company, for any reason permissible by law.

For any questions concerning information in this document, email [innovate@fau.edu](mailto:innovate@fau.edu)