



TiE U 2025

Jun-Dec, 2025

Eligibility Criteria and How To Apply

About TiE U:

TiE U is a 6-month accelerator program designed to fast-track collegiate entrepreneurs' innovative ideas into Market-ready ventures.

This global accelerator program is designed to inspire and support future innovators by offering mentorship, education, investment readiness, and opportunities that connect innovation and industries.

Read more about TiE U 2025: <https://bit.ly/3Cy3EgT?r=lp&m=Mplu9pmtprA>

TiE U New York Calendar: Important Timeline:

Dates*	Activity
FEB 10, 2025	Applications Open
May 31, 2025	Applications Closes at 11:59 PM PST
JUN-AUG 2025	Mentoring Sessions
OCT 2025	TiE NY Pitch competition finals to choose global representative
OCT-NOV 2025	Mentoring of winning teams Mock Round and Semi Finals
DEC 2025	TiE U Global Pitch Competition at TiE Global Summit 2025

Eligibility Criteria

Pre-Revenue Track: (for Idea Stage Startups):

- Open to undergraduate and postgraduate students with a validated startup idea
- All team members must be current students of a college/university
- **Teams** should consist of minimum 2 and maximum 5 members (max. limit is optional)
- The applicant must be the founder or co-founder of the startup
- A basic prototype should be developed, with some level of customer validation completed
- Revenue must be below \$5,000 (since the startup is operational)

Revenue Track: (For Product-ready Stage Startups)

- Open to undergrad, postgrad/graduate students
- The startup must have a real product and early customers.
- Teams should consist of minimum 2 and maximum 5 members. (max. limit is optional)
- At least one team member must be a current postgrad/graduate student.
- If any of the co-founder/team members has graduated, it should be no more than two years ago.
- Revenue requirements: (since the startup is operational)
- Eastern Hemisphere startups: ≥\$5K revenue
- Western Hemisphere startups: ≥\$25K revenue
- TiE U Alumni are eligible to reapply (but not past chapter winners)

How it works:



Important Points to Consider before Applying:

Here are some instructions for the applicants before they apply for TiE U 2025. These guidelines will help ensure that applicants understand the process, prepare adequately, and submit a strong application:

1. Application and Evaluation Process:

- Ensure you meet all eligibility requirements before applying.
- Applications will be evaluated based on the eligibility criteria, the strength of the startup idea, the progress of the prototype, customer validation, and the potential for impact and scalability.
- TiE and the TiE Chapter may consider additional factors during the evaluation process, which may not be explicitly stated in the eligibility criteria.
- TiE and the respective TiE Chapter reserve all rights to select or reject applications for the Pre-revenue Stage Track based on their sole

discretion. The decision of TiE and the TiE Chapter will be final and binding.

- e. TiE and the TiE Chapter are not obligated to provide feedback or reasons for the rejection of any application.
- f. When applying for the Program, you will be asked to select your nearest TiE Chapter. Please follow these guidelines carefully to ensure your application is valid and considered for evaluation:
 - i. **Select Only One TiE Chapter:**
 - ii. You must choose only one TiE Chapter that is closest to your geographical location.
 - iii. If you are unsure which TiE Chapter is nearest to you, visit the official TiE website or contact the TiE U team for assistance.
 - iv. Do Not Apply to Multiple Locations.
 - v. Submitting applications to more than one TiE Chapter is strictly prohibited.
 - vi. If your application is found to be submitted from two or more locations, it will be automatically rejected.
- g. All information provided in the application will be treated as confidential and used solely for evaluation purposes.

2. Gather Customer Validation Evidence

- a. Collect data or feedback from potential users, such as survey results, interview notes, or early testing outcomes.
- b. Be ready to share how this feedback has shaped your product or service.

3. Prepare a Clear and Concise Pitch

- a. Customise your pitch deck as per the track you are applying for. Read the eligibility criteria and include relevant information in your pitch deck
- b. Clearly articulate your startup idea, the problem you are solving, and your target audience.
- c. Highlight your prototype's features and how it stands out from existing solutions.
- d. Explain your customer validation process and what you've learned from it.
- e. Revenue details (ensure it is matching with the track criteria you are applying for).

4. Gather Required Documents and Information

- a. Team details (names, roles, and contact information).
- b. A brief description of your startup (problem, solution, target market).
- c. Details about your prototype/full product as per the track you are applying for (functionality, development stage).



- d. Evidence of customer validation (e.g., survey results, user feedback).
- e. Revenue details (ensure it is matching with the track criteria you are applying for).

5. Submit a Complete Application

- a. Fill out all sections of the application form accurately and thoroughly.
- b. Double-check for errors or missing information before submitting.
- c. Ensure your application is submitted before the deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.

6. Be Honest and Transparent

- a. Provide accurate information about your startup, team, and progress.
- b. Misrepresentation of facts may lead to disqualification.

7. Prepare for the Next Steps

- a. If shortlisted, be ready to participate in interviews, presentations, or pitching sessions.
- b. Have a clear plan for how you will use the resources and mentorship provided by TiE U to grow your startup.

8. Reach Out for Clarifications

- a. If you have any questions about the application process or eligibility, contact the TiE U team for assistance.
- b. Do not hesitate to seek guidance to ensure your application is strong and complete.

9. Judging Criteria:

- a. Opportunity Assessment
- b. Operational and Management Credibility
- c. Success Viability
- d. Business Model Canvas
- e. Business Plan Summary
- f. Value Proposition
- g. Financials
- h. Presentation Delivery Effectiveness

10. How to Apply

- a. **Submit your application online from the link:**
<https://bit.ly/TiEUApplications>
- b. **The application must be completed by Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 11:59 PM PST.**
- c. Teams invited to participate in the program will be notified via a live video event, email and phone by the respective TiE Chapters.
- d. If you have questions about any aspect of the competition, please contact TiE U team at tiEU@tie.org