



Rules & Guidelines

OVERVIEW

The Illinois Innovation Award (IIA) honors University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students for excellence in cutting-edge innovation or translational research that addresses real-world problems and has the potential to make a significant impact.

The winner will receive a monetary award of \$20,000 in the form of direct deposit to the student's University account, and a trophy. The Illinois Innovation Award is awarded by The Grainger College of Engineering through the Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC).

STUDENT PROFILE

This prize is intended to recognize a student who:

- Is a passionate innovator working on a novel innovation or translational research with the potential to make a significant impact
- Inspires others

EXPECTATIONS OF WINNER

As a recognized innovator, it is expected that the winner help represent the innovation ecosystem following the announcement of the award. Some examples of how the student will participate are:

- Participate in promotional video for the program
- Speak about the program and its impact at information sessions and other events
- Attend the 2023 IIA ceremony to participate in awarding the next year's winner, and speak about the impact the award had on their innovation and research

ELIGIBILITY

Student Eligibility | To be eligible to receive the award, the student:

- Must be enrolled full-time, on-campus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the full academic year
- Must be seeking a degree at Illinois as an undergraduate or graduate student in any major
- Must be the primary researcher, founder, or inventor on works cited

Work Cited | The nomination will request information on the work that the student has done. To be eligible, that student's work must:

- Be innovative in nature
- Be created, initiated, or founded by that student
- May not be someone else's work that the student is representing

APPLICATION PROCESS

Nominations | Each unit may submit only 2 nominations. Examples of units are department, research group, center, company, etc. Each nomination includes materials for judges to review:

1. Nomination letter
2. Letter from the nominee describing their role in innovative achievements and/or translational research
3. CV of the nominee

Nominations may NOT be made by:

- Staff of TEC
- Students or the nominee

Judging | A group of judges reviews the nominations and materials and selects students for in-person interviews.

The reviews are based on the following award goals:

- To recognize a current student of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who is a passionate innovator working on a novel innovation or translational research with the potential to make a significant impact, and a role model for others.
- To generate excitement about innovation and entrepreneurship in students by showcasing top students on-campus
- To highlight the significance of solving important problems and changing the world

Interviews | A select few nominees are invited to a short interview (typically 15 minutes) in front of a panel of judges.

Prize Announcement | The award recipient is announced and celebrated during an awards ceremony late in the Spring semester.

All applicants are expected to abide by the rules of the program and the campus integrity statement and student code found at go.illinois.edu/studentcode.

**Technology
Entrepreneur
Center**