NUS INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE
Graduate Research Innovation Program (GRIP) - Frequently Asked Questions

GRIP Programme

1. **What is the duration of the GRIP programme?**
   
   A GRIP programme is of typical duration of 12 months and can be extended up to a maximum of 15 months subject to discretion of the GRIP programme committee.

2. **Do I apply to the programme as an individual or as a team?**
   
   You can apply as an individual or a team of not more than 3 members.

3. **Are there any restrictions on the types of ideas that will be supported under this programme?**
   
   GRIP aims to support deeptech based start-up with good market and business potential. Particularly it aims to tap into the vast array of deep technology within NUS to address unmet market needs. Hence if your idea supports these objectives we would like to hear from you.

4. **Does GRIP focus on any specific industry verticals?**
   
   There is no specific focus. Your project will be assessed based on its commercial potential.

5. **Can I come up with an idea for the project myself or do I have to work with an idea that is given to me?**
   
   You can come with your own idea and if you don’t have an idea but would like to start a company GRIP Programme also has an Idea Bank from which you can be matched with or select other project to work on.

6. **What is the typical time commitment required per week for this programme?**
   
   We expect you to commit the necessary amount of time to achieve the programme goals of the 3-month venture creation training. Minimally you are expected to attend the 3-weekend workshops and not less than 80% of the weekly 1-1 meet the instructor sessions, as well as the final demo day. You are also expected to complete the critical assignments assigned by the venture creation course instructor.
7. **Will I be paid salary for my time commitments towards the project?**

You will not be paid additional salary from what you are already receiving from the University.

**Support Available under GRIP**

8. **What support can I expect under the GRIP Programme?**

- GRIP provides
- Hands-on guidance from experienced entrepreneurial mentors and technical gurus to side step common deep tech start up pitfalls
- Step-by-step guidance on starting and growing investible deep tech start ups
- Access to Master Engineers to build your 1st prototype
- Access to Market Research Database for your market research need
- Funding of up to $100,000 in your start up

9. **Will someone help me with the prototype development?**

- To be a proficient technology founders, you are expected to conceptualize the prototype and define its specification based on market inputs
- Master Engineers are also available to provide additional support.
- GRIP has prototyping partners who can you help you to build your prototype based on your concept

10. **Where will I be physically located to work on the idea? What facilities are available to me at that location?**

GRIP Head Quarter is at Innovation 4.0 (I4) building. Depending on the needs of your project, you may be allocated working space at I4 or at our MVP Studio.

11. **Are there any preferred vendors from whom I can procure services from for prototyping?**

Yes, GRIP has put together a list of preferred vendors who you can work with. However, you are not restricted from working with other vendors if they can meet your needs.
12. **Who owns the IP of the prototype developed in the Programme?**

   IP generated through GRIP programme i.e., foreground IP (FIP) will be owned by NUS. If the FIP involves inventive contribution from a third party, it may be co-owned between NUS and the third party.

13. **I don’t know much about market research and business plan development. Will I have access to experts who can assist me in building a business plan?**

   The 3-month venture creation programme will provide you with necessary knowledge. You will also be assigned with a business mentor and a project manager to work alongside you. In addition, you will have access to an extensive market research database to do your secondary research under the GRIP programme.

14. **Will there be support from NUS for the company formed after the programme has ended?**

   NUS has an extensive entrepreneurship support system including NUS Enterprise’s various programmes which a new start-up can benefit from.

15. **What can I use the GRIP funding for?**

   GRIP funding is an equity based funding, i.e., the fund will be invested in the start-up company you will be incorporating in exchange for equity. The investment fund would be used by the company to support its critical development and operation costs to move toward critical milestones to secure further funding to sustain the startup.

16. **If I setup the company under the GRIP programme, what will be the equity arrangement with NUS?**

   NUS will take no more than 20% of the equity in the start-up for the $100,000 funding.

17. **Will you help in sourcing for private investors or in applying for grants from public funding agencies?**

   GRIP programme will help connect you to funding and investment sources, provide advice on grant applications and help with investment presentation deck preparation.
**Eligibility**

18. **Can I apply if I don’t have a strong technical background or a technical degree?**
    
    GRIP aims to support deeptech start-up formation, relevant skills that contribute or enable such a new venture will be critical.

19. **Can I apply if I already have a team and an idea in my mind?**
    
    Yes, a GRIP project can have 3 members per team. Your idea will be evaluated as part of the application.

20. **Do I apply to the programme as an individual or as a team?**
    
    You can apply as an individual or a team of not more than 3 members.

21. **Can I have my PhD advisor as my team member?**
    
    Yes, but you should be the main commercialization lead of the project.

If you have more questions?

Please contact grip@nus.edu.sg. We love to hear from you.