Call for Proposals
Undergraduate Research and Innovation (URI)

URI Phase-2 Student Seed Grants ($3,000 Each Project):
Track-1 ONLY: Technology/Product Development and Innovation
and/or
TechQuest Innovation/Prototype Awards Competition
($12,000 in Cash Prizes and $6,000 in Summer Stipends)

For complete information on proposal format, cover sheet and evaluation matrix, please see the Undergraduate Research and Innovation [http://centers.njit.edu/uri/programs/index.php](http://centers.njit.edu/uri/programs/index.php)

Proposals submitted for URI Student Seed Grants Phase-2: Track-1 will be automatically considered for TechQuest Innovation Awards. The Report section (on previous Phase-1 work) of the Phase-2 Track-1 proposal has the same format as the TechQuest Innovation award. The Plan section of Phase-2 Track-1 proposal is not part of TechQuest.

Teams which enter the TechQuest Prototype competition must also enter the TechQuest Innovation competition. Teams may enter the TechQuest Innovation/Prototype competition without submitting a Phase-2 proposal.

URI Phase-2: Track-1/ TechQuest
Proposal Submission Deadline: FEBRUARY 23, 2018
Oral presentation by 8-12 finalists: MARCH 22, 2018

Information Session on Proposal Writing and Submission
Hosted by URI External Advisory Board Members (over pizza lunch):
February 8, 2018, 12:00-1:30, Campus Center 240
1. **Eligibility**

**URI Phase-2: Track-1: Technology/Product Development and Innovation**

Phase-2 proposals may be submitted by former Phase-1 Student Seed Grant winners who have completed Phase-1 work. Phase 2 proposals consist of a Report on Phase 1 work (same format as TechQuest Innovation Award) and a Plan only for Phase-2. Phase-2 proposals may also be submitted by teams who have not participated in Phase-1, but have done comparable preparation for Phase-2.

Note: Seniors are only eligible if they are a rising senior at the time of the application or have at least two full semesters to work on the project. Students are required to present the progress report and the final presentation to the board during the following semesters.

**TechQuest Innovation Award Competition:**

This competition is to promote and reward innovation among NJIT undergraduates. TechQuest fosters innovation as a bridge between an inventive idea and commercialization of that idea. Participants in TechQuest must be in good academic standing and be enrolled full-time during the fall and spring semesters of their year of entry. Students may form teams consisting of under-graduates from any NJIT department. Teams may have as an advisor a NJIT faculty member or other person associated with NJIT. NSF-sponsored projects, Capstone and other technology projects by NJIT undergraduates may be entered in TechQuest. Projects entered in TechQuest may build on prior work, but the presenting team must identify its unique contribution to the presented work.

The innovative idea must originate within the team and/or team advisor as documented in the written report. Ideas which originate outside NJIT, e.g. a co-worker at a place of employment, are not eligible.

**Selection of Finalists:**

In the preliminary round of judging, eight to twelve finalists will be selected based on the written report due on FEBRUARY 23, 2018. The finalists will be chosen in two pools based on the highest scores for the URI Seed Grant Proposal (Report and Plan) and the TechQuest documents (Innovation and optional Prototype). Scores for teams entering the Prototype competition (additional 25%) will be added to the TechQuest Innovation score which will then be scaled to 100%. The finalists compete in an oral presentation on MARCH 22, 2018.

URI Phase-2 Student Seed Grants will be announced by APRIL 3, 2018. TechQuest winners will be announced on Innovation Day, APRIL 10, 2018.

Questions on these competitions should be directed to Dr. Atam Dhawan [Dhawan@njit.edu](mailto:Dhawan@njit.edu).
2. Intellectual Property

To obtain information on patent opportunities and prior art issues, students are encouraged to attend a meeting addressing intellectual property on FEBRUARY 12, 2018, 1:00-2:30, Campus Center Ballroom B or to view the presentation online here. Sanjiv Chokshi, Esq., Assistant General Counsel for Patents and Intellectual Property at NJIT will conduct the session which addresses patent opportunities and patentability requirements. He is available to answer questions on the invention disclosure process (Chokshi@njit.edu). General information on patents is available here. Mr. Chokshi will receive all submitted proposals and be notified of the finalists. At his discretion, he may ask a team to submit an invention disclosure prior to the oral presentations on MARCH 22, 2018.

Participants are encouraged to record the origin of ideas and safeguard data in a written or electronic laboratory notebook or by other means. Records are essential to clarify the origin of patentable ideas.

3. Grants and Awards

URI Phase-2: Track-1: Technology/Product Development and Innovation

URI Phase-2 Seed Grants provide up to $3,000 per project to pursue research further or to develop a prototype. Funds can only be used to order project and prototyping supplies through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Innovation. Awarding of the Phase-2 grants will be based on the Phase-2 proposal (Report and Plan) as shown in the Evaluation Sheets (Appendix A).

TechQuest Awards

The TechQuest awards for 2018 consist of three parts: (1) Innovation Awards in cash for the winning teams, (2) one or more Prototype Award(s) in cash for the best prototype(s) built by presenting team(s) and (3) two stipends of $3000 to be used by winning team members to continue work during the summer at NJIT on their projects.

The five plus TechQuest cash awards for 2018 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash Recognition Awards</th>
<th>Innovation Awards</th>
<th>Prototype</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Place (1st Entrants)</td>
<td>First Place (All Entrants)</td>
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The First Prize (1st Time) Innovation Award will be given for projects and for teams that have not won a TechQuest prize previously. There will also be First, Second and Third place Innovation Awards without restrictions (all entrants).
One or more Prototype Award(s) (1st Time) will be given for the best prototype(s) representing the innovations and made by the presenting teams. A prototype that has received a Prototype Award previously is not eligible.

Judges may award the Prototype Prize(s) to more than one team and distribute the $3000 prize among winners at their discretion. The Prototype Award may be won by teams that have won Innovation Awards in the same or previous years. The prototype may include commercial devices or software if they will be incorporated into the product. Teams may show prototypes but choose not to enter the prototype competition.

Teams must indicate the competitions they wish to enter by checking the appropriate boxes on the Cover Page (Appendix B).

Written reports of prior TechQuest winners can be viewed at https://1drv.ms/f/s!Agp_t-xJXoOvgs905G PiImyxQ9NaSg.

Cash recognition awards are to be divided equally among team members. Team advisors are not eligible to share in the awards. Teams are encouraged to use prize money to further their projects.

TechQuest summer stipends will be provided to two winning team members who continue working on their projects in the NJIT Summer Innovation Accelerator Program (prepares students to launch businesses). The stipends for summer programs will be awarded, in order of preference, to the Prototype, First (1st Time), First, Second, and then Third place Innovation Award team members. Any remaining stipends will go to TechQuest participants who did not win awards. Other sources of funding are available to support summer work. Total summer support to an individual from TechQuest, university funds or grant/foundation funds is capped at $3,000.

All TechQuest awards are given at the discretion of the judges. Interpretation of the competition rules, including disqualification of individuals or teams, will be made by the judges. Decisions of the judges are final. Advisors to TechQuest teams may not serve as judges.

4. Judging Criteria

Eight to twelve individual or team projects will qualify as finalists on the basis of the written proposals which will be treated as confidential.

Phase-2: Track-1 Seed Grant recipients and TechQuest award winners will be decided at a closed oral presentation on MARCH 22, 2018 at 9:00-12:00, BALLROOM B. Ratings for the Innovation Awards will be weighted one-half on the report and one-half on the oral presentation. Ratings for the Prototype Awards will be weighted one-quarter on the written report and three-quarters on the demonstration at the oral presentation. In the rankings of the written reports for TechQuest to select finalists, scores for teams competing for the Prototype Award will be scaled to 4/5 of their total score to account proportionally for additional points (25%) available to them. Students entering the Prototype Award competition must also compete in the five TechQuest Innovation Award categories. Teams should enter the prototype competition only if they have a well-developed prototype; otherwise the prototype score may bring down their overall score.
Both written proposals and presentations may contain intellectual property and other confidential information that will not be disclosed publicly. Students are encouraged to provide sufficient technical detail so judges can assess the feasibility of their project. A requirement for judging is to maintain the confidentiality of the written report and the oral presentations.

**Written Proposal.** The body of the written proposal for TechQuest will be no more than 5 pages or 6 pages for Prototype Award entrants. The Phase-2 Plan has no page limit. Content exceeding page limits may be disregarded by the judges. The report is to be submitted in digital format, preferably PDF, to techquest@njit.edu no later than midnight FEBRUARY 23, 2018. Drawings, photos, references and internet links in the report are encouraged to facilitate evaluation of the report.

The cover page for the report, not included in the page limitation. One team member (first entry) should be designated as the contact person. Pages are to be numbered.

**Oral Presentation:** Each individual or team finalist will make an oral presentation to the judges on MARCH 22, 2018, 9:00-12:00, BALLROOM B. The oral presentation is closed to the public and may contain proprietary information. All members of the team are expected to attend the presentation and be available to answer questions. The presentations for TechQuest Innovation Awards will be a maximum of 6 minutes and will be followed with questions by the judges for up to 8 minutes. Phase-2 presentations will be allowed an additional 3 minutes for the oral presentation. An additional 3 minutes for presentation and an additional 4 minutes for questions will be allowed for the prototype entrants. The question period does not have a separate judging category; answers to questions will influence judging of the other categories.

For Prototype Award entrants, the prototype device or software should be demonstrated as part of the oral presentation. A video may be used if indoor demonstration is not feasible.

The Phase-2: Track-1 Seed Grants Award winners will be selected based on ranking in the Phase-2 only portions of the written proposals (50% weighting) and the oral presentations (50% weighting). TechQuest Innovation Award winners will be selected based on ranking in the TechQuest Innovation only sections of the written proposals (50% weighting) and the oral presentations (50% weighting). The Prototype Award winners will be ranked on the basis of the Prototype only score on the written (weighted 25%) and oral (weighted 75%) Evaluation Sheets.

**Poster Presentation:** Finalists are required and other entrants are encouraged to participate in the poster session on Innovation Day APRIL 10, 2018. The poster session is open to the public. If a team wishes to preserve patent rights to its project, the poster must not contain enabling disclosures of its invention. The team may contact Sanjiv Chokshi, Esq. with questions about intellectual property and what constitutes an enabling disclosure. Mr. Chokshi may contact the team on patent issues based on information in the written report.

**URI Phase-2: Track-1 Student Seed Grants and TechQuest Awards Timeline**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 12, 2018</td>
<td>Intellectual Property Presentation 1:00-2:30 at Campus Center Ballroom B</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 23, 2018</td>
<td>Submit written proposal to <a href="mailto:techquest@njit.edu">techquest@njit.edu</a></td>
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Any questions about the URI Student Seed Grants and TechQuest Innovation/Prototype Awards Competition should be directed to Ms. Angela Retino at aretino@njit.edu