



OFFICE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

USC + Amgen BioAccelerator Program

Request for Proposals

OPPORTUNITY AT A GLANCE

Program	USC + Amgen BioAccelerator Program
Purpose	Competitive opportunity to support one early-stage USC-affiliated biotechnology or life science company with strong commercial potential.
Award	Up to \$250,000 in investment from the USC Alfred E. Mann Institute, scientific mentorship and business development support from Amgen, and access to lab space at a USC-affiliated bio-incubator, with up to \$50,000 of the investment available to support rent, equipment, or facility improvements.
Eligibility	U.S.-formed companies with a USC faculty member, student, staff member, or alum on the founding or executive team.
Application Window	June 1– 5PM September 30, 2026
Submission Format	Non-confidential pitch deck, 20 slides maximum, submitted as PowerPoint or PDF.
Selection Process	Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Three finalists will be invited to pitch, and one company will be selected.

OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

USC's Office of Research and Innovation invites applications for the inaugural USC + Amgen BioAccelerator Program, a new competitive opportunity for early-stage USC-affiliated biotechnology and life science companies developing technologies with strong commercial potential. This opportunity is ideal for companies developing therapeutics, diagnostics, drug discovery platforms, research tools, enabling biotechnology platforms, and other life science innovations, to accelerate their company through funding, mentorship, and lab space.

AWARD

After a competitive selection process, one USC-affiliated company will receive:

- Up to \$250,000 in investment from the USC Alfred E. Mann Institute
- Scientific mentorship and business development support from Amgen
- One year of lab space at a USC-affiliated bio-incubator

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for selection, the company must have a USC affiliation. This requires a USC faculty, student, staff, or alumni be a member of the founding or executive team. The applicant must be an entity formed under US law. Applicants must be comfortable working in a shared lab environment and conduct their operations in

accordance with the established policies and procedures of the incubator. Previous recipients of investments from the AMI are eligible for this opportunity.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit a non-confidential deck of no more than 20 slides in a PowerPoint or PDF format. The deck should include the following:

- Company mission and area of focus
- Clear outline of the platform or program
- At least one slide detailing management team roles and areas of expertise
- Targeted market or patient population
- At least three slides of compelling data, including proper controls, labels, accurate interpretation, and relevant intellectual property
- Upcoming key milestones and hurdles, including financing
- Company funding sources and affiliations (domestic and international)
- Competitive landscape and commercialization strategy
- At least one slide detailing anticipated benefits of being selected

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Materials may be submitted between June 1st and 5 PM September 30th, 2026.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

A committee composed of representatives from each participating function will review applications and make the selection. The initial pool of applicants will be narrowed to three finalists. Finalists will be invited to participate in a final pitch, after which one company will be selected.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection will be based on:

- Technology and team readiness
- Clarity of value proposition
- Path to commercial readiness
- Overall delivery

INVESTMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The investment will be made by the USC Alfred E. Mann Institute (AMI) in accordance with the bylaws, policies, and procedures of the office. The investment will be made in the form of a convertible note, in exchange for equity in the company, upon agreement of terms and conditions. Additional diligence may be conducted after selection to ensure proper procedures are completed prior to investment. A maximum of \$250,000 will be allocated to the selected company, with an understanding that up to \$50,000 of the total allocation may be used for rent, equipment, or facility improvements at the affiliated bio-incubator. If the company chooses to remain in the space after the one-year term expires, the company may continue leasing the space, at the company's expense, under terms agreed upon by the landlord.

DISCLAIMER

The company is participating in this program with the understanding that the USC Office of Research and Innovation and Amgen do not guarantee any outcomes, including successful translation to a commercial entity, relationships with external parties, or ability to attract additional financing.