

# Norman Esch Awards

## STAGE 1 APPLICATION BREAKDOWN

**Deadline to submit: Monday October 13 at 4PM**

You must answer all of the questions within the application form in order to be considered eligible for the awards.

To avoid bias, reviewers will not be able to see any of your personal information - please make sure that you do not include your name in any of your attachments and in any of your submitted answers.

When filling out these questions, [don't forget to refer to the Stage 1 Handbook for extra resources.](#)

# APPLICATION FORM

## Project Name

### Pitch your idea (Max 900 Characters)

Please provide a succinct overview of your idea, the problem you are solving, and the target demographic you are supporting with this idea.

### What problem are you looking to solve?

We are trying to get a good idea of what problem you are solving. In other words, who is suffering from this problem (the more specific the better)? Why does this problem exist? What are the root causes of the problem?

Remember to think from the perspective of your customers/users, and why this problem matters to them.

### How will you solve the problem? Describe your envisioned solution from the user/customer point of view.

We want to understand how you plan to solve the problem you have stated. How will it address the root causes identified earlier? What is unique or novel about your approach to solving the problem?

### Explain the feasibility of the technology.

What are the technologies needed to deliver the solution? Is the proposed solution feasible? Are the technologies you want to implement accessible?

### Why did you choose to solve this problem?

We want to understand your motivation for solving this problem - did you face this problem? Did you read about this problem?

### How is the problem solved today? List current alternatives (competition) to your proposed solution.

Give us an idea of how the problem is solved today, and why that is not good enough. Consider indirect and direct solutions/competition. Based on this, clarify what is innovative about your solution.

### What do you plan to do next? What are you planning on working on in the coming 4 months?

Some things to consider are problem discovery and making sure that you have a good understanding of the demand for your solution/idea, or anything else that will help you work on your idea (i.e. sourcing feasible technologies, recruiting team members, seeking mentorship, connecting with community members, etc.).

**What are the biggest challenges you face in pursuing your idea?**

This is not a “gotcha” - we want to understand what you are lacking, and how the Innovation Boost Zone can be helpful.

**How will your idea impact Canada?**

The Norman Esch Awards backs projects that will have a positive impact on Canadian people, communities, society, and the economy. Describe how your solution will make an impact in Canada. Consider the jobs you will create and/or how your solution will improve the lives of Canadians.

**Attachment (Optional)**

Your attachment(s) can be any materials (i.e. document, video, etc) that can be used to rationalize your application answers (i.e. secondary research, technology, etc). You are free to include any type of materials that you feel would assist in your application.

Maximum 3 attachments can be included.

**\*Please note, your application is being reviewed anonymously - please do not include any personal information (i.e. your names or faces).**

## ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

**This section is for eligibility purposes only and will not be part of your application evaluation**

<b>AWARD ELIGIBILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please confirm all the statements below are TRUE before moving forward with the application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have NOT won a Stage 1 Norman Esch Award in the past</li> <li>I am a current or recent graduate (within 6 months) from the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science</li> <li>I have a clear academic standing (1.67 GPA and above)</li> <li>I will be available for contact (via phone or in person) during the Section Committee meeting (held during the scheduled committee meeting sometime in the Fall 2024 term) if requested by a Selection Committee member</li> <li>I am NOT an undergraduate student in my first semester of study</li> </ul> </li> <li>Upload your most recent unofficial TMU transcript (PDF only):  <i>*Unofficial transcripts are required to ensure that you meet the award's eligibility criteria. Transcripts can be found on MyServiceHub, instructions on how to download transcripts can be found here:</i>  <a href="https://www.torontomu.ca/ramss-support/students/academics/unofficial-transcript/">https://www.torontomu.ca/ramss-support/students/academics/unofficial-transcript/</a> Please ensure the file upload is complete before moving to the next page </li> </ul>
<b>AWARD HISTORY</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you applied for an Esch Award in the past?</li> <li>If Yes, what stage(s) have you applied to in the past?</li> <li>If Yes, how have you addressed the comments made by the reviewers in your last application?</li> </ol>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name</li> <li>TMU Student Number</li> <li>TMU Email</li> <li>Phone Number</li> <li>Gender</li> <li>Program</li> <li>Level of Current Degree</li> <li>Year of Study</li> <li>Year of Graduation</li> <li>Current GPA</li> </ol>
<b>FINANCIAL NEED</b> This component will not be evaluated as part of your application but is required as part of TMU award criteria.	Upload your Student Budget Form (PDF only): The form can be found here: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jJWnGuS3sZSvGDt0cnjW_XRYAYO3tHh5/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jJWnGuS3sZSvGDt0cnjW_XRYAYO3tHh5/view?usp=sharing</a>
<b>GRADUATE SPECIFIC</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you a grad student?</li> </ol>

<b>INFORMATION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. If Yes, is your application related to your current thesis?</li> <li>3. If Yes, please describe the contributions and role of your thesis supervisor [150 Words Max]</li> <li>4. If Yes, please insert a signed PDF from your thesis supervisor indicating his/her relationship to your idea.</li> </ol>
<b>MENTOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have you consulted with any faculty member, mentor, and/or advisor before applying for this award?</li> <li>2. If Yes, please list any faculty member, mentor, and/or advisor you've consulted with.</li> </ol>
<b>A COPY OF YOUR UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT</b>	<p>Please note your transcript is only used for eligibility purposes and will not be a part of your application evaluation.</p> <p>If you do not know how to download your unofficial transcript, <a href="#">please see this link.</a></p>