

# Young Starters program

## About the program

The \$2 million Advance Queensland Young Starters program aims to build and attract young entrepreneurial talent in Queensland, to retain early stage entrepreneurs and high performing university graduates.

The program will provide a pathway for young founders, researchers, and social innovators to gain entrepreneurial and commercialisation experience and skills.

The Young Starters program consists of two elements - a Young Starters Fund, and an annual state-wide Young Starters Pitching competition.

### Young Starters Fund

The Young Starters Fund aims to build capability within Queensland's young startup community.

The fund will provide up to \$20,000 (GST exclusive) for eligible entrepreneurial and Startup focussed activities aimed at Queensland youth aged 15-24 years. Applicants will be required to provide matched funding of at least 30 per cent.

Funding is open to both Queensland based and non-Queensland based, for profit and not-for-profit organisations with an ABN and registered for GST.

The funding is provided on an open round basis and as such, there is no closing date.

Funding is not retrospective. Only activities that commence after the agreed start date of the project will be funded.

An applicant may apply for multiple separate activities, but funding subsequent activities will only be provided once previous activities are complete.

### Young Starters Pitching Competition

The annual Young Starters Pitching Competition aims to promote, reward and connect emerging young Queensland entrepreneurs.

Entrants into the Young Starters Pitching Competition will be selected from participants of Young Starters events that took place across Queensland during the year.

Finalists will receive the opportunity to pitch their startup concept to a panel of angel investors, and the winners will receive prizes to progress their idea.

## Benefits

The program will:

- build and attract young entrepreneurial talent in Queensland
- retain early stage entrepreneurs and high performing university graduates
- provide a pathway for young founders, researchers, and social innovators to gain entrepreneurial and commercialisation experience and skills.

Applications will continue to be accepted until the funding pool is exhausted.

## Eligibility criteria

Funding of up to 70 per cent of the total eligible activity costs, up to a maximum of \$20,000 (excluding GST) per activity is available for eligible organisations.

Applicants must contribute 30 per cent in cash or in-kind contributions.

## How to apply

Applications can be submitted online at any time.

## Further information

**Web:** [qld.gov.au/advanceqld](http://qld.gov.au/advanceqld)

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