Q: Who is eligible to apply?
AIM is open to UC San Diego graduate students, postdocs, research academics, and faculty who have a signed a patent acknowledgment with the University of California. The IGE Technology Accelerator program is open to the aforementioned academic categories with the additional requirement that all applicants must be registered in the Jacobs School of Engineering (JSOE).

The IGE Business Accelerator program is open to established business entities, where founders or member(s) of senior management must be alumni of UCSD.

Q: Are Extension students eligible?
All applicants to AIM must have signed a patent acknowledgement with the University of California. For questions, contact aimgrant@ucsd.edu. For IGE programs, if applicants meet the above stated requirements, they are eligible.

Q: How much funding can I request?
Funding awards are based on project milestones and estimated budget requirements which applicants are required to disclose during the online application process. Awards are limited at $50,000 total, for AIM or IGE Technology Accelerator applicants.

Q: Is technology developed outside of UC San Diego eligible?
The intent for AIM and the IGE Technology Accelerator is to advance UC San Diego technologies toward commercial applications, therefore related or generated IP must be assignable to the university. IP owned by an external party would likely not be eligible alone. For the Business Accelerator, outside intellectual property and technologies are acceptable.

Q: Can funds be spent on work done entirely off-campus?
While not an explicit requirement, AIM is designed to support campus research, therefore an on-campus component will be preferred. Full spending outside the university will require strong justification. There are no strict requirements for the IGE Technology Accelerator Program, concerning where grant funding is spent.

Q: Is a drug development proposal within the funding scope?
Although not a primary target, consideration may be extended to limited pharmacology projects. One example might be preclinical studies to move to the IND stage. Any candidate compound must be disclosed, and all proposals should reflect a 12-month
timeline. IGE typically will not fund drug development projects due to the length of time and funding required. Please contact ige@ucsd.edu for more information.

Q: Is a start-up that is incubating on the UCSD campus eligible to apply if none of the founders are UCSD students, faculty, staff or alum?
At this time, our accelerator programs are open to UC San Diego graduate students, postdocs, research academics, alums, and faculty. If you have additional questions in this area, please send email to ige@ucsd.edu.

Q: Is support for postdocs or students an eligible expense? What about technicians or staff salaries?
Yes, grants may cover stipends and salary support. Funds may be justified for essential project resources.

Q: For the Healthcare track, will a proposal that involves a new bio-based technology, rather than a specific device or material, be considered?
Yes, projects at the intersection of devices and materials or projects that involve new technologies that may be commercialized, are eligible.

Q: At what stage of development should a project be?
For the AIM program, projects can range from concept to early stage. For the IGE Technology Accelerator, projects should be working towards a prototype that could be field tested with an industry partner or potential customer.

Q: What is the selection process?
Applications will be evaluated and the most competitive applicants will be invited to participate in focused bootcamps for each program. The bootcamps are designed for applicants to work with program mentors to discuss and further refine their proposals, culminating in the creation of a concise pitch deck. At the conclusion of the bootcamps, finalists will be selected to present their pitch decks to a panel of experts, consisting of OIC, IGE and StartR staff, UCSD faculty, industry experts, partners and investors. The recommendations from the panels of experts will form the basis for the final selections.

Q: What is the deadline, and how do I apply?
Applications are due Monday, March 26, at 5 pm and must be submitted through UCSD’s InfoReady application platform (ucsd.infoready4.com). Individuals with an Active Directory account may log in to the system with their UCSD credentials. Non-UCSD users will need to register before beginning the application. After logging in with personal credentials, UCSD users may designate a colleague to submit applications by proxy.