



THE HILL PRIZES

Application Guide

The Hill Prizes, funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, will accelerate high-risk, high-reward research ideas with significant potential for real-world impact.

Categories:

Medicine
Engineering
Biological Sciences
Physical Sciences
Technology



About The Hill Prizes

The Hill Prizes, funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, recognize and advance top Texas innovators and researchers whose work could have significant impact on science and society. Broad in scope, the Hill Prizes will fund both high-risk, high-reward research and ideas and innovations that demonstrate very significant potential for real-world impact.

The Hill Prizes have five categories: Medicine, Engineering, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences and Technology. The Medicine, Engineering, Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences prizes will be given to researchers at academic and medical institutions. The Hill Prize in Technology will be given to individuals in the private sector in applied sciences and engineering.

Each prize recipient's institution or organization will receive \$500,000 in direct funding from Lyda Hill Philanthropies to accelerate their work. Prize recipients will be announced and recognized on February 5, 2024, at the opening reception of the TAMEST 2024 Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

The goal of the prizes is to recognize exceptional innovators and provide seed funding to advance innovative science and highlight Texas as a premier destination for world-class research. The prizes will bridge the path from research to business development and further innovations that need additional funding to have a greater impact. The Hill Prizes will also put recipients in a stronger position to receive more research funding and seek large-scale grants and collaborations.

About Lyda Hill Philanthropies

Lyda Hill Philanthropies encompasses the charitable giving for founder Lyda Hill and includes her foundation and personal philanthropy. Her organization is committed to funding transformational advances in science and nature, empowering nonprofit organizations and improving the Texas and Colorado communities. Because Miss Hill has a fervent belief that "science is the answer" to many of life's most challenging issues, she has chosen to donate the entirety of her estate to philanthropy and scientific research. For more details, visit: lydahillphilanthropies.org

About TAMEST

TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology) was co-founded in 2004 by the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison and Nobel Laureates Michael S. Brown, M.D., and Richard E. Smalley, Ph.D. With more than 330 members, 9 Nobel Laureates and 22 member institutions, TAMEST is composed of Texas-based members of the three National Academies (National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Sciences) and other honorary societies. TAMEST brings together the state's brightest minds in medicine, engineering, science and technology to foster collaboration, and to advance research, innovation and business in Texas.



Who May Apply?

Qualified applicants include all Texas-based researchers who meet the following eligibility requirements:

Medicine, Engineering, Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences Eligibility Requirements

- Open to all Texas-based applicants (including TAMEST members) 15 years or more after their first independent faculty appointment. Applicants must have had 15 years of experience (by calendar year) the year the application is submitted.
- Applicants must have spent, at a minimum, the past two years (at the time of submission) performing research in Texas at an institution within the state and stay active there for at least one year after receiving the prize award funding.
- Applications may be submitted by individuals and teams from all research universities, medical centers, nonprofit research institutes and other scientific organizations in Texas.
 - Institutional approval by the applicant's institution is required at the time of the application.
 - There may be more than one application from an institution. Multi-institution applications are welcome.
 - For team submissions, the Principal Investigator or team lead must be an active leader and participant of the group and meet all eligibility requirements.

Technology Prize Eligibility Requirements

- Open to all Texas-based researchers (including TAMEST members) 15 years or more after their first industry-affiliated appointment. Applicants must have had 15 years of experience (by calendar year) the year the application is submitted.
- Applicants must have spent the past two years (at the time of submission) performing research in Texas at a company or institute within the state and stay active there for at least one year after receiving the prize award funding.
- Applications may be submitted by individuals and teams from all companies, private research institutes and other scientific organizations in the private sector in Texas.
 - Institutional approval by the applicant's institution is required at the time of the application.
 - There may be more than one application from an institution. Multi-institution applications are welcome.
 - For team submissions, the Principal Investigator or team lead must be an active leader and participant of the group and meet all eligibility requirements.



Application Categories

Applicants must choose only one category (medicine, engineering, biological sciences, physical sciences or technology) for their submission. The Hill Prizes Committee reserves the right to move an applicant into a different category if they believe the submission is more suitable for that category.

Selection Criteria and Process

A committee of TAMEST members (Texas-based members of the National Academies) will evaluate applicants and recommend finalists in consultation with a panel of National Academies members from outside of Texas. A committee of Texas Nobel and Breakthrough Laureates reviews and endorses the finalists. The TAMEST Board of Directors then gives final approval of the prize recipients.

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Uniqueness of idea behind the research;
- Potential for commercial application and/or real-world impact;
- Strengths of research group leader and/or team;
- Ability and availability of key personnel and infrastructure to execute the work and achieve success with the prize funding to be awarded.

Key Dates

June 27, 2023	Applications Open
July 12, 2023	Online Information Session
August 11, 2023	Applications Close at Midnight Central Time
February 5, 2024	Recipients Announced at TAMEST Annual Meeting

Award Period

Proposals should be for at least one year in duration with an expected start date of March 1, 2024.

Budget

\$500,000 USD per prize. Funds may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect charges.



Required Application Materials

Application materials are crucial to evaluating and selecting from the submissions. All applications must be submitted through the online portal (<https://www.tfaforms.com/5059269>), and acknowledge approval by applicant's institution or organization to accept the prize funds. The following components are required:

1.) Cover page with applicant information, including:

- Category of prize;
- applicant name;
- year of first faculty or industry-affiliated appointment (must be 2008 or earlier);
- applicant title and organization;
- address, email and telephone contact information.

2.) A summary from the applicant (50 words or less) succinctly explaining:

- A summary of the research and why it should be chosen for the Hill Prizes;
- the potential impact of the research.

3.) A statement from the applicant (up to 5 pages) defining:

- The problem the applicant is trying to solve with their research, and the key gap the work will fill;
- Limitations of current approaches and what makes the applicant's approach novel;
- The potential impact of the work, supported by relevant metrics if possible;
- Potential commercial and translational applications of the work;
- How the recipient would use Hill Prize funding to accelerate their work and make a significant impact on society.

Applicant cover page, summary and statement must be submitted in one document (Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF). Detailed budgets are not required, but applicants should explain how the funding would be used, e.g., for equipment, personnel or other expenses. Statements should be formatted in Times New Roman, 11-point font with margins of at least 0.5".

4.) Biographical summary for the Principal Investigator (not to exceed three pages), including:

- A summary of education, employment, honors, recognitions and awards;
- A summary of the applicant's research interests and activities, including (where applicable) information on the most relevant grant support (titles, sources and duration) or projects led, and the role of the applicant in each grant;
- Citations for up to ten of the applicant's most important research publications;
- A synopsis of the applicant's discoveries and research contributions; and
- Statistics on papers, books, patents (if applicable) and reports.

*Applicants may submit NIH biosketches for the Principal Investigator. Additional team members may also submit bios (bios not to exceed one page per team member). **Letters of recommendation or support are not permitted and will not be accepted.***



Deadline for Submission of Application Materials

All application materials must be submitted at the time of application. All applications must be received by midnight Central Time on August 11, 2023.

Prize Funding Requirements

Each prize recipient's institution or organization will receive \$500,000 in direct funding from Lyda Hill Philanthropies. Recipients retain full intellectual property rights. Expenditures from the prize award must follow the spending policies of the recipient's institution. Funds may not be used for institutional overhead or indirect charges.

Prize recipients must be from a Texas institution or company and stay active there for at least one year after receiving the prize award funding. Prize funding shall remain with the institution or company that receives the award. There is no specific requirement for how rapidly the funds must be expended, but the expectation is that the funds will be expended in a timely manner to advance the objectives of the work as quickly as reasonably possible.

Recipients must be able to attend the prize ceremony the evening of February 5, 2024, at the opening reception of the TAMEST 2024 Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.

Recipients must provide a statement on the impact of the funding on their work annually until one year after the prize funds have been expended, with a brief explanation on how the funding was used. Recipients agree that information included in the statement may be used publicly by TAMEST and Lyda Hill Philanthropies. The expectation is that the promotion of successful prize work may be helpful to the prize recipients and to other Texas-based researchers and innovators.

Contact TAMEST

For additional information, please contact TAMEST:
tamest@austin.utexas.edu or (512) 471-3823.

Submit your application for the 2024 Hill Prizes today.

All application materials for the 2024 Hill Prizes must be received in electronic form by Friday, August 11, 2023.



Hill Prizes Committee Members

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COMMITTEE CHAIR

David E. Daniel, Ph.D. (NAE)

The University of Texas at Dallas (President Emeritus)
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NI (Retired)

For more information
on the Hill Prizes
Committee, visit
TAMEST.org/hill-prizes