FELLOWS PROGRAM

How to Apply

The application window is expected to open on December 7, 2026, and close on January 10, 2027. During that period, a link on our website will take you to the application system, where you can provide your profile information and portfolio link, submit the required materials, and request a Faculty Letter of Recommendation. You can pause and resume the process throughout the application window.

Request your faculty letter of recommendation early. You can begin working on your application immediately, but you cannot formally submit it until we receive the letter of recommendation.

Application Process

01

Faculty Letter of Recommendation

- From a faculty member who knows you and your work well
- You request it through the NOVA grant portal using their university email address; they submit it directly to NOVA

02

Game Concept

- 8–10 pages, 1,000–2,000 words of text
- A new game idea, created entirely by you. Existing projects and capstone projects are not eligible
- GenAI use is allowed but not encouraged, and must be strictly declared

03

Execution Plan

- 1–2 pages on how you'll turn your vision into a playable prototype with the $100,000 NOVA Fellows grant
- How you plan to structure development over the roughly 6–12 months NOVA funding can support
- The project must be your primary (if not exclusive) focus

04

Personal Statement (Video)

- A short video, roughly two minutes long
- A chance for us to get to know you beyond your Game Concept and Execution Plan

05

Portfolio

- A link to an online portfolio of the work that best represents your skills, experience, and creative potential
- It must open without requesting permission or creating an account

Application Evaluation

NOVA staff and Grant Committee will review applications after the application window closes, with grant decisions expected by the end of March 2027. Grant recipients must finalize milestones, staffing, and budget, and sign a grant agreement before receiving funding and other support from the Foundation. Check back for details of our Grant Agreement (available soon).