

Frequency Asked Questions

General Overview

What is the Green Light Fellowship?

The Green Light Fellowship is a practical, skills-focused program delivered by the Climate Change Cluster (C3) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), through the Deep Green Biotech Hub. It is designed to support startups, small to medium enterprises (SMEs), and eligible individuals working in algae biotechnology and related sustainability sectors.

The program combines technical workshops with the opportunity for selected participants to undertake a time limited laboratory residency at UTS, focused on building real-world technical capability, applied knowledge, and pathways toward proof of concept or next stage development. The Fellowship is also supported by UTS Startups and comes with a membership for the duration of the Fellowship.

Who is the Fellowship for?

The Fellowship is suitable for:

- NSW-based startups and SMEs working in algae biotechnology or related sustainability fields
- Eligible individuals (aged 18+) developing algae-based or climate-focused innovations
- Teams seeking hands-on technical learning rather than a traditional business accelerator
- Applicants must demonstrate alignment with algae biotechnology, food, climate innovation or sustainability driven applications.
- A certificate of currency and public liability insurance for up to 20 million, before acceptance into the Fellowship.

What does the Fellowship include?

The Fellowship typically includes:

- A series of technical and applied workshops delivered by algae research experts
- Structured milestone planning to support technical and commercial development
- Access to networking and startup ecosystem events (including UTS Startups events)
- A competitive, short-term laboratory residency at UTS

- All components are delivered as in-kind support; the program does not provide cash funding. This program is valued at 25,000 per team, but at no cost to successful applicants.

What is the laboratory residency?

The laboratory residency is a competitive component of the Fellowship. Participants selected for residency:

- Undertake 8 weeks of PC1 lab access at UTS
- Work only on the project scope approved in their Fellowship application
- Access designated laboratory space during staffed hours, subject to inductions, safety approvals, and compliance requirements
- Laboratory access is limited, non-exclusive, and time-bound, and is governed by a formal participation agreement and lab access schedule.

Selection into workshops does not guarantee access to the laboratory residency.

Is the program free?

Yes. The Fellowship is fully subsidised and provided at no cost to selected participants and valued at 25,000 per team.

However, participants are responsible for:

- Their own staffing and project delivery
- Insurance coverage required for laboratory access
- Any materials, equipment, or costs not explicitly provided as part of the Fellowship
- The program does not provide stipends, equity investment, or cash grants.

Who owns the intellectual property?

Participants retain ownership of their own intellectual property developed before or during the Fellowship.

UTS does not take equity and does not claim ownership of participant IP simply by virtue of program participation. Any guidance or supervision provided by UTS staff is advisory only.

Are UTS researchers doing the work for participants?

No. Participants are fully responsible for conducting their own project work.

While UTS staff may provide guidance, workshops, or advice, the Fellowship does not constitute a research services arrangement. All experimentation, testing, and development activities are undertaken by the participant team.

What are participants expected to commit to?

Participants are expected to:

- Attend mandatory workshops, briefings and inductions
- Comply with all safety, biosafety, WHS and laboratory requirements
- Complete milestone reporting and progress updates as required
- Participate in reasonable program-related engagement and evaluation activities
- Failure to meet mandatory requirements may result in suspension or termination from the program.
- Participants are expected to use the lab space for an average minimum of three days per week.

Where does the program take place?

The Fellowship is hosted at UTS in Sydney. Laboratory residencies are conducted in designated UTS laboratories, primarily at the Broadway campus. Participants must have reasonable access to this location for the duration of their involvement.

Does completing the Fellowship guarantee commercial success?

No. Participation in the Fellowship does not guarantee a completed product, commercial outcome, investment, or customer uptake.

The program is designed to support technical learning, skills development, and progression toward proof-of-concept or next-stage development, leaving participants better positioned for future research, scaling, or commercial pathways.

Do we receive seed funding?

No, successful teams will not receive any seed funding. Instead, the teams will receive access to a PC1 facility, a UTS Startup membership, access to algae technical workshops, all valued at 25,000.

How is the Deep Green Fellowship different from the Green Light Accelerator Program?

While related, the Deep Green Fellowship and the Green Light Accelerator Program serve different purposes.

Green Light Fellowship

- Technical, lab-enabled program focused on algae biotechnology
- Emphasises hands-on skills, applied learning, and technical capability building
- Includes workshops plus optional competitive laboratory residency
- Participants retain full IP; no equity taken
- Best suited for teams needing technical validation, lab experience, or proof-of-concept development

Green Light Accelerator Program

- Business and commercialisation-focused accelerator model
- Emphasises market readiness, business models, customer discovery, and investment preparation
- Typically cohort-based with structured commercial milestones
- Designed for startups ready to accelerate market entry rather than lab-based R&D
- In short, the Deep Green Fellowship supports technical development and validation, while the Green Light Accelerator supports commercial growth and scaling. Many teams may engage with both programs at different stages of their development journey.

How do I apply?

Application processes, eligibility criteria, and intake timing are published when Fellowship rounds open in July 2026. Applicants typically apply via an expression of interest for workshops, followed by a proposal-based application for laboratory residency (if seeking lab access).

For current opportunities, eligibility requirements and application timelines, please refer to the Deep Green Biotech Hub website.