



**2027 Beckman Young Investigator Award Letter of Intent (LOI) Instructions**  
**Due Friday, July 31, 2026, by 5pm PT**

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The Beckman Young Investigator (BYI) Program provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to ***foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open new avenues of research in science.***

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### **General Instructions for Uploads**

PDF format unless otherwise indicated

Single Space

Margins: 1 inch

Font size: 11 pt. Arial (10 pt. for captions and references) OR

12 pt. Times New Roman (11 pt for captions and references)

File size: 2 MB max

### **Page Limits**

Pre-proposal: required; 4 pages total including all references, diagrams, and drawings (no template); save file as "pre-proposal". **Inclusion of your name, initials, or institution in the file name will render your application administratively ineligible.**

Proof of Citizenship: required; no page limit (no template)

Documentation of leave of absence/stop-the-clock events: optional; no page limit (no template)

BYI Biosketch: required; 4 pages maximum ([template](#))

Current Funding: required; no page limit (table found within the application portal)

### **General Instructions and Information**

1. The BYI Letter of Intent is conducted as a ***blind review***. See "BYI Technical Pre-Proposal" instructions below for more information.
2. The Foundation provides two examples of successfully blinded LOI pre-proposals and a LOI Guidance Document. These items are located on the BYI Program [Website](#).
3. The Foundation will host several, one-hour virtual Mentor Office Hour Meetings. Please see the General Instructions task in the application for the dates and to register. A recording from the 2025 program cycle Mentor Office Hour Meeting can be found [here](#).
4. Required templates can be downloaded from the instruction sections of the application.
5. To submit your application, all tasks must be completed and "Marked as Complete."
6. Applicants must be employed by an institution that qualifies as a 501(c)(3) or a similar non-profit organization, as defined by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation (a Federal Employer Identification Number/FEIN is required). If your institution does not meet this requirement, but it has an affiliated Foundation that does, please list the Foundation as the institution on your application and provide the contact information for the Foundation Relations office.

7. The Foundation recommends that Institutional Endorsements are requested as soon as possible. *Your application cannot be submitted until you have received and accepted both Institutional Endorsements.* Once an endorsement has been received, applicants must select each endorsement task and click "**Mark as complete**".
  8. Institutional collaborators can assist in creating the application, but **the application must be submitted under the name of the Principal Investigator (PI)** and not under the name of the institutional collaborator.
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#### **To add a collaborator:**

On the main dashboard of the application portal, you will see an option to "Add Collaborator". Use this feature if you'd like others to have access to edit and/or view your application. Applicants can provide collaborators with two different levels of access to their application:

- a. **View Only:** Collaborators can view your application but cannot edit or modify.
  - b. **View and Edit:** Collaborators can view, edit, and save changes to your application.
1. Select "Add Collaborator"
  2. Enter in the email address(es) for collaborator(s)
  3. Select their access level
  4. Select "Send Invite"
  5. Your collaborator(s) will receive an email from the application system inviting them to "Join Now". Once an account is created, they will be able to see (and/or edit) your application.
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9. Once all sections have been marked as complete, please review and submit your application by clicking the green "Submit" button on the left side of the application screen. Once the application is submitted, no changes can be made.

***\*\*AMBF recommends submitting early to allow time to correct\*\****  
***\*\*any unexpected errors or submission issues\*\****

#### **Application Details:**

##### **BYI Profile**

You will be asked to provide information about yourself, your institution, and your current research lab. In addition, you will be asked to provide a brief overview on the primary focus of your research group.

##### **Eligibility**

1. **Early Career Specifications:** To be eligible to apply for the Beckman Young Investigator award, applicants must hold a tenure-track faculty appointment or an equivalent structured pathway to permanent faculty status, be within the first four years of that appointment (appointed 1/1/22 or later), and maintain an active, independent lab and research program. Researchers at institutions that do not offer tenure-track positions remain eligible provided their role includes full-time teaching and independent laboratory research responsibilities and falls within a comparable early-career or probationary period not exceeding four years. Applicants must have no more than 10 years post-terminal degree (PhD earned 1/1/16 or later or for MD or MD/PhD, residency completed no earlier than 1/1/2016), and no more than 5 years' experience in a non-tenure track (not including postdoc) or industry position. Non-tenure track or industry positions that occurred in 2021 or later are eligible to apply in August 2026 for the 2027 Program. If you

have experienced any stop-the-clock, leave of absence, or work disruption events, you may be eligible to apply, even if you are beyond these limits (see details below).

2. **Leave of Absence/Stop-the-Clock Events (optional):** Events such as childbirth or adoption, personal medical leave, caring for a sick family member, or other significant work disruptions are considered by the Foundation as "stop-the-clock" events. These events may extend your eligibility for the Beckman Young Investigator Award. Please note that the Beckman Foundation offers a full year extension for each child that you added to your family through either birth or adoption, regardless of the length of your leave.

Qualifying leaves may have occurred during your postdoctoral training and/or your current role as a Principal Investigator (PI). For each leave of absence, you must submit **one** of the following:

- Official stop-the-clock documentation from your institution
- Official leave of absence documentation from your institution
- A signed letter from an institutional contact explaining the nature of the leave and the amount of time taken

If you have experienced a qualifying event, please indicate "Yes" to having Stop-the-Clock documentation in your PI Profile. You will then be prompted to upload the appropriate official documentation from your institution. These documents will be reviewed when determining your eligibility for the BYI program. If you would like to confirm your eligibility prior to submission, please send your documentation, as well as a short summary of the events, to the BYI Program Officer at [byi@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:byi@beckman-foundation.org).

3. **Proof of Citizenship:** To be awarded a Beckman Young Investigator award, you must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. If you are in the process of applying for permanent residency, you may still apply, however, proof that permanent residency has been granted will be required prior to the interview stage (if invited). Your proof of citizenship documents will be submitted through the application portal, reviewed by Foundation staff, and your eligibility noted; however, the Foundation will not maintain copies of your documents after verification.

Proof of Citizenship/Permanent Residency can be shown by uploading one of the following:

- 1) Current U.S. Passport (must be valid); OR
- 2) Birth Certificate (certified copy/not the one from the hospital) **AND** Driver's License; OR
- 3) Permanent Resident Card (**front and back**); OR
- 4) US Passport Card (**front and back**); OR
- 5) Green Card (**front and back**); OR
- 6) Enhanced Driver's License (**front and back; not a REAL ID**).

**Form I-797 Applicants:** You are eligible to apply if your Form I-797 was approved, extending your conditional resident status for 18 months from the expiration date on your Form I-551. Upload Form I-797 and a copy (front and back) of your expired Permanent Resident Card for review. **A copy of your United States permanent resident card must be submitted prior to the BYI Interview to remain eligible.**

**Applicants that have applied for Permanent Residency:** Upload a copy of your country of citizenship identification card and any acknowledgment from the United States government that your permanent resident application has been submitted. **To remain eligible, you must submit a copy of your United States permanent residency card by March 16, 2027.**

*\*\*The Foundation will request updated citizenship information at the Full Application stage and again prior to the Interview, if invited.\*\**

## Pre-proposal Instructions

Please carefully review the instructions below. Failure to follow the guidelines below for blinding your pre-proposal will result in your proposal being deemed ineligible.

Letters of Intent will be reviewed **blindly** by the Foundation; reviewers will only have access to your technical pre-proposal document. All other materials that are required at the LOI stage will be used internally by the Foundation to establish your eligibility for the program. If the Foundation or review committee find that you have included information in your technical pre-proposal or references that identify you or your institution, your application will be deemed to be ineligible; this decision will be made at the sole discretion of the Foundation.

### Instructions for your technical pre-proposal:

- Include a title at the top of the first page
- Do not include your name, gender, or any institutional information anywhere within the technical pre-proposal.
- While using "I" or "We" is allowed, you are encouraged to write in the third person (for example: the applicant).
- Do not name any collaborators, mentors, postdoc advisors, lab members, etc.
- The description should make clear the rationale for the proposed work, its potential importance, the approach to be taken, and the potential for significant outcomes.
- As reviewers may not be specialists in your field, avoid jargon and acronyms.
- If you include references to your own publications in the technical proposal, do not use any formatting markings (e.g., asterisk, bolding, italics, etc.) to identify yourself within the list of authors.
- If you include references to your own publications in the technical proposal, avoid using phrases like "in our preliminary work" or "my group has shown" within the text.
- Use this format to include unpublished work: <sup>1</sup>(Applicant name withheld). Unpublished work, 2026.
- For examples on how to properly blind your application, please see page three of the "[LOI Guidance Document](#)".
- **File Naming Convention:** Name your document "Pre-Proposal". **Do not include your name, initials, or the name of your institution in the file name of your pre-proposal.**

## Biosketch

Applicants **must** use the template provided here: [BYI Biosketch Template - Download](#)

## Current Funding

Applicants can have no more than \$225,000 in direct, annualized, current external funding at the time of application for either this year or year one of the BYI award.

Within the application portal, you will be asked to enter your current grants, including the direct funding received from each, for this year and the first year of the BYI award, as well as the amount of overlap that each grant has with your proposed BYI project. You should include all grants that you have already received or for which you have been notified that you have been selected and have signed a funding agreement. For the annual breakdown boxes, enter only the direct amount of funding you will receive in those years. Please only enter numbers into the dollar amount boxes (no symbols or commas). For example, if you receive a grant that will provide \$50,000 in direct support per year, enter 50000.

You will also be asked to provide information about your start-up package, including any large equipment purchases, lab renovations, recruitment, etc. Please note that start-up funds, department-wide

instrumentation grants, and "Transition" grants (e.g., NIH K99/R00), are not counted towards the \$225K limit; however, we do ask that you report these sources of funds within the table.

If you are invited to submit a Full Proposal, you will be asked to provide updated funding information. You will only be eligible to submit a Full Proposal if you must remain under the \$225k annualized cap.

### **Endorsements**

The Beckman Young Investigator Letter of Intent requires that you secure two (2) appropriate Institutional Endorsements (**electronic signatures**) from:

- 1) Chief Academic Officer (President, Chancellor, Provost **or similarly authorized signatory**)
- 2) Dean of the College/School/Division for the Participating Academic Unit to which you are appointed (**or similarly authorized signatory**).

Once you request an endorsement, your endorsers will receive an email (see below). After they have submitted their endorsement (i.e., signature), you will be notified via email. To finalize the task, you will need to access your application and select "Mark as Complete". BOTH endorsements must be received and finalized by the application deadline. **Endorsements are NOT letter of recommendation and no documentation is required to be uploaded.**

### **Please Note:**

**1.** Endorsers will receive a unique link to complete their endorsement, which will be valid for 14 days from when you request it. If the link expires and the endorser tries to use it, the application system will automatically send a new link. Please note that it may take a few minutes for the email containing the updated link to arrive, and we recommend checking the spam/junk folder if the email is not received. Applicants can also resend the endorsement request, if needed.

**2.** You will receive an automated email from the application system (noreply@smapply.io) once the endorsement email is accepted **and** the endorsement is submitted. These emails may end up in your junk/spam folder. Be sure to look for these emails so that you can complete the submission process by the submission deadline.

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### **When Endorsers follow their individual link, they will see the following:**

**Step One:** Please review the application before signing. To review, select "Preview Application" in the top left of the page.

**Step Two:** Complete the electronic signature request below. Once complete, select "Submit". Your endorsement indicates the following:

- 1) Endorser has reviewed the materials to be submitted to the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation for the 2027 BYI Program Award; AND
- 2) All parties agree to the terms of the BYI Program as stated in the Guidelines ([BYI Guidelines](#)); AND
- 3) The Institution will continue to provide current support levels.

**Step Three:** You will receive an email confirmation once the endorsement is submitted.

Please note: The PI has voluntarily submitted proof of citizenship/permanent residency with the submission of this application in order to be considered.

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**To submit**

When all the required tasks have been marked as complete, you can review your application by selecting the gray "Review" button. When you are ready to submit, select the green "Submit Your Application" button OR the green "Submit" button on the application dashboard. Please note that no additional edits can be made once the application is submitted.

Application, including the completed institutional endorsements, are due by July 31, 2026 @ 5 PM PST.