Breakthrough Bio

Applicant Guide

Thank you for your interest in Breakthrough Bio, a highly selective international accelerator for Israel's most promising pharma (biotech) and medical devices (medtech) startups. The program is designed to strengthen and expand your R&D capabilities and prepare you for U.S. partner, investor, regulatory, clinical, commercialization, provider, and payer engagement. This guide explains how applications are reviewed and how to put your strongest foot forward.

What Evaluators Are Looking For

Evaluation centers on two core questions:

1. How strong is your company's core asset, team, and stage as a foundation for growth and cross-border expansion?
2. How ready are you to benefit from U.S. engagement, and how likely is the program to accelerate that readiness?

Throughout, evaluators weight R&D capability growth, commercial and partnering readiness, and clear program fit over broad impact claims. Specific, measurable answers are far more persuasive than aspirational ones.

How Your Application Is Reviewed

Israel innovation Authority evaluators will screen all startup applicants for eligibility, sharing all eligible applications with MassChallenge for a full application review.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by MassChallenge's independent experts in two rounds.

IIA will review all MassChallenge's written assessments and live pitch evaluations.

The IIA investment committee makes the final selection decision.

Round 1: Written Review

- MassChallenge's evaluators use your application and pitch deck to form a holistic view of your company and its potential. Therefore, to be considered for the program, ensure all required fields are completed and materials are submitted before the deadline.
    - *Incomplete applications will not be accepted for review.*
- MassChallenge evaluators determine if your company is a proper fit for the program using your application.
- MassChallenge's evaluators provide an overall recommendation on your written application and presentation deck.
- MassChallenge's evaluators also give component-level scores across key areas of your business. These scores do not by themselves determine advancement. They help the program understand your strengths and gaps and, if you are selected, tailor support to your needs.

Round 2: Live Pitch and Q&A

- All eligible startups pitch live to MassChallenge's independent experts, followed by questions.
- Round 2 is not a repeat of Round 1. Evaluators already know your fundamentals from your application. The live session tests what paper cannot show: how clearly you communicate, how well your claims hold up under questioning, and how you respond to challenge.
- Come ready to defend your science or technology, your regulatory and commercial strategy, and your specific near-term milestones and asks.

Areas Evaluators Assess

In Round 1, evaluators score these areas for every applicant:

- Purpose and Problem Definition: The specific unmet clinical, scientific, or market need you address.
- Core Asset Strength and Scientific or Technical Merit: How differentiated and de-risked your therapeutic, device, diagnostic, or platform is.
- Evidence Base and Development Stage: Whether your data to date fits your claimed stage.
- R&D Capability Growth Potential: The specific capabilities the program could help you build.
- U.S. Readiness and Cross-Border Growth Strategy: Your concrete plan for U.S. engagement.
- Financing and Traction, Team Strength; and Program Fit: For program fit, evaluators consider whether the program is well-matched to your current stage. Breakthrough Bio is designed for companies with meaningful room to grow into the U.S. market, so companies at a more advanced commercial or sales stage may be a lighter fit for what the program offers.

Track-specific areas are also assessed. Pharma (Biotech) applicants are evaluated on therapeutic rationale, evidence, and pharma partnering, clinical, regulatory, and investor readiness. Medical devices (medtech) applicants are evaluated on FDA device pathway, clinical evidence, and U.S. commercialization, provider engagement, and reimbursement strategy.

Completing the Application

- Check eligibility first. Confirm your track's sector and stage requirements, Israel-headquarters, and U.S. travel commitments before you begin.
- Select your track in Question A8. Pharma (Biotech) applicants complete Section C; medical devices (medtech) applicants complete Section B. Complete only the section for your track.
- Be specific and measurable. Where a question invites detail, concrete figures, dates, and named milestones carry more weight than general statements.
- Put care into the two narrative fields (B7 for medical devices (medtech), C8 for pharma (biotech). In 100 words, state your U.S. thesis and the single biggest barrier you anticipate. Evaluators read these closely.
- Answer the readiness questions thoughtfully. Your current U.S. presence, the R&D capabilities you most want to build, and your definition of success within 12 months all signal how ready and focused you are, and they help the program tailor support if you are selected.

Recommended Pitch Deck Content

- **Company:** Purpose and problem: the need you address and who it affects.

- **Asset or Technology:** Your therapeutic, device, diagnostic, or platform, its current stage, and what differentiates it.
- **Evidence:** Your strongest preclinical, clinical, technical, or real-world data to date.
- **Regulatory:** Your expected pathway and near-term regulatory milestones (FDA device pathway for medical devices (medtech); clinical and regulatory plan for pharma (biotech).
- **U.S. Strategy:** How you will win in the U.S. through commercialization, partnering, licensing, or investment, and your biggest anticipated barrier.
- **Traction and Financing:** Funding to date, current traction, and what you aim to achieve next.
- **Team:** The founders and key contributors, and why this team is positioned to execute.

Important Notes

- Submit your deck as a PDF or PowerPoint. We recommend PDF.
- Submission deadlines and delivery instructions will be provided by the Israel Innovation Authority in the call for proposals.