Global Innovation Institute
Accelerator Program Accreditation

GUIDEBOOK

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GInI - The **Global Innovation Institute**- **www.gini.org** - is an international membership organization providing professional membership associations and certifications in the field of Innovation.

GInI aims to advance individual careers and transform organizational achievements by advancing the profession of innovation leadership. It does this through its globally recognized standards, tools, publications, resources, professional development courses, certifications, applied research, and networking opportunities.

All certificates and accreditations available through GInI reflect the most current methods, trends, and strategies in innovation leadership.

GInI sets the standard for innovation excellence around the globe.

GInI GLOBAL INNOVATION INSTITUTE®

Introduction

Accreditation of an Accelerator Program by GInI assures all affected stakeholders that this Program has been thoroughly assessed, and that its design and operation therefore conform to GInI's strict accreditation standards. No other organization prescribes this same level of accreditation standard for Accelerator Programs as does GInI. Accreditation by GInI is therefore the global standard of accreditation for Accelerator Programs.

The Benefits of Accelerator Program Accreditation

The world as we know it is changing at an unprecedented pace. As we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution, countless new world-changing technologies are being developed and use for a wide range of new purposes. In many cases this is changing not only the products and services we consume, but also how our societies operate. For businesses, this opens a whole new world of opportunity, not only for new offerings, but also for completely new business models that never existed before. And so, the time is ripe for new entrepreneurial ventures to rise – ventures prepared to deliver these fresh new business models and value propositions that stand to move us from the world of yesterday and today into the world of tomorrow. But for this to happen, the world needs resources capable of accelerating these nascent young ventures rapidly forward. We need Business Accelerators capable of giving these ventures the knowledge, resources, and leads they need to start life onsolid ground and move quickly.

Yet how does one ensure that a given Business Accelerator has the capabilities, resources, and connections needed to get these new ventures up and running in a lean, agile, and effective manner? What indicators are there that a particular Accelerator has what it takes to succeed in getting new business ventures launched, operational, and on their way to scale? For this, a credible and reliable accreditation standard is required.

The GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation is such a credible and reliable accreditation standard – a means by which leaders the world over can develop confidence in the design, operation, and capabilities of their Accelerators. The GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation stands alone as the only such standard in the world, setting the benchmark against which all world-class Accelerators are to be measured. GInI awards three levels of accreditation for Accelerator Programs. Each of these represents an increasing level of impact the Accelerator Program produces for its (cohorts, and an increasing level of financial return it delivers to its operating organization. These three levels are: 1) Novice; 2) Advanced; and 3 Premier.

Accreditation of an Accelerator Program by the GInI Accreditation Center thus offers several valuable benefits:

- Affirmation of the operating organization's ongoing commitment to entrepreneurship and the regional impact this offers.
- Confidence that the design, operation, and capabilities of their Accelerator are fully optimized.
- Peer recognition for achievement to a globally recognized benchmark standard.

GInI Accreditation Eligibility – Compliance Demonstration

For an Accelerator Program to be **eligible** for GInI accreditation, it must be able to demonstrate **full compliance** to GInI's **eligibility requirements**, as outlined below.

Compliance to these requirements is demonstrated through an independent third-party **assessment process** utilizing GInI's **Authorized Innovation Assessors**®, or **AInAs**®. This process is explained below.

GInI Accreditation Eligibility Requirements

For an Accelerator Program to be **eligible** for GInI accreditation, it must be able to demonstrate **full compliance** to all GInI's **Accelerator Program Accreditation Eligibility Requirements**.

What this means is that, per the **Accelerator Program Accreditation Assessment** Tool used, the Accelerator must have all the requisite program elements in place, according to the following requirements list.

- **Accelerator Management** – 4 assessment questions.
- **People Resources** – 10 assessment questions.
- **Ecosystem Resources** – 8 assessment questions.
- **Community Resources** – 8 assessment questions.
- **Public Relations Resources** – 6 assessment questions.
- **Facilities Resources** – 9 assessment questions.
- **Historical Performance Results** – 11 assessment questions.

GInI awards **three levels** of accreditation for Accelerator Programs. These are:

- Novice
- Advanced
- Premier

Each of these represents an increasing level of **impact** the Accelerator Program produces for its **cohorts** and an increasing level of financial return it delivers to its **operating organization**.

The Accreditation Process for Accelerator Programs

Basis for Assessment

The **GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation** is an **assessment-based weighted-score accreditation**.

In this assessment, there are **seven (7) core sections** comprised altogether of **twenty (20) subsections**. Inside these twenty subsections are a total of **56 assessment questions**. Each question is scored on a scale of **0 - 10**. Each subsection has a preassigned weighting value ranging from **.01 to .10**.

Following the assessment, question scores are **averaged** within their respective subsections and these subsection averages are then **multiplied** by their respective **subsection weighting value**. These weighted subsection average scores are then **summed together** to arrive at the **final overall score**.

The On-Site Assessment Process

To secure accreditation, the organization operating the Accelerator must engage at least **two (2) external GInI Authorized Innovation Assessors**® **(AInAs**®**)** who will come to the Accelerator and conduct an on-site assessment of its management practices, people resources, ecosystem resources, community resources, public relations resources, facilities resources, and historical performance results. These Assessors must be contracted and arranged through a GInI **Authorized Training & Assessment Provider**® **(ATAP**®**)**. Once the Assessors have completed their assessment, they will com- pile a standardized report and submit to GInI. Based on their findings, GInI will make the determination of whether to issue the Accelerator Program Accreditation.

The assessment is conducted **live** inside the **Accelerator,** such that over the course of working through the assessment questions the Assessors will move throughout the Accelerator facility and that of its operating organization potentially multiple times.

The **management** and **performance sections** of the assessment will be conducted both with the operating organization's leadership and the Accelerator's management and staff. For the five **resource sections** of the assessment, the Assessors will engage select **Accelerator cohort teams** in helping to score these questions, to ensure their answers agree with those of the operating organization's leadership. This serves to ensure **transparency** and **objectivity** in the assessment.

The typical in-Accelerator assessment generally requires **one working day** to complete. Thereafter the AInAs® will invest additional time in compiling and submitting their final report to GInI.

The GInI Accelerator Program Assessment Tool & Questions

The assessment tool associated with GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation – known as the Accelerator Program Accreditation Assessment Tool, or AxPAAT – is comprised of 56 assessment questions.

These are grouped into **twelve (12)** sections, namely:

1.   **Profile of the Accelerator & Operating Organization** – 8 informational questions.
2.   **Operating Context** – 9 informational questions.
3.   **Accelerator Management** – 4 assessment questions.
4.   **People Resources** – 10 assessment questions.
5.   **Ecosystem Resources** – 8 assessment questions.
6.   **Community Resources** – 8 assessment questions.
7.   **Public Relations Resources** – 6 assessment questions.
8.   **Facilities Resources** – 9 assessment questions.
9.   **Historical Performance Results** – 11 assessment questions.
10. **Organization's Target Scores** – Used to record the operating organization's target scores – if established.
11. **Comments** – Assessors record additional details here wherever these offers added value to the assessment.
12. **Score Calculation** – Used to record subsection average scores, subsection weighted scores, & overall score.

The first two sections – **Profile of the Accelerator & Operating Organization** and **Operating Context** – are for information only. Their questions do not constitute a part of the assessment. They exist to help establish an appropriate context for the assessment questions that follow in Sections 3 - 9, the seven **core sections**.

All questions in the seven core sections **will** be assigned a **score** (0 - 10). No questions will be left unscored.

In order that it might properly prepare for the assessment ahead of time, the operating organization will be supplied with the AxPAAT questions **prior** to conducting the formal assessment. These will be provided by the AInAs® it has retained. This allows the organization to prepare **clear evidence** of its answers to each of the questions addressed. If so desired, the organization may also engage the AInAs® to conduct a pre-assessment prior to the formal assessment to improve confidence in passing the formal assessment.

GInI awards **three** levels of accreditation for Accelerator Programs, namely Novice, Advanced, and Premier.

- If an Accelerator scores **below 3.00**, it is **not eligible** for accreditation by GInI.
- To achieve the **Novice level,** the Accelerator must score between **3.00** and **4.99**.
- To achieve the **Advanced level**, the Accelerator must score between **5.00** and **7.99**.
- To achieve the **Premier level**, the Accelerator must score between **8.00** and **10.00**.

In either case of passing or failing the assessment, GInI will forward to the operating organization a copy of the Assessors' final report – known as the Accelerator Program **Accreditation Assessment Report**, or **AxPAAR**. This report will be received directly from GInI only, and not from the AInAs®. If questions arise out of the report however, the operating organization may contact the AInAs® to seek clarification.

Application Fee for Initial GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation

The **initial fee** for GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation is **3,500 USD**.

This is to be remitted to GInI at the same time as the Assessors submit their final assessment report – the AxPAAR – to GInI. Upon request, GInI will issue an invoice to the applicant operating organization for this fee.

Biannual Re-Assessment / Re-Accreditation

In order to **maintain** ongoing Accelerator Program Accreditation, GInI **Accredited Accelerator Programs** must submit to a **bi-annual** (every two years) **re-assessment** by a qualified external AInA®.

Failure to secure a bi-annual re-assessment will result in the **expiration** and **suspension** of that Accelerator's accreditation, until such time as it submits to a new assessment and becomes **re-accredited**.

Maintenance Fee for Continued GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation

The **bi-annual maintenance fee** to maintain GInI Accelerator Program Accreditation is **3,500 USD**, to be paid **every two years** upon re-assessment. This is to be remitted to GInI at the same time as the Assessors submit their final re-assessment report – the AxPAAR – to GInI. Upon request, GInI will issue an invoice to the applicant operating organization for this fee.

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