

9th Annual Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium March 6th – 7th, 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

Application Deadline: Sunday, January 4, 2026
Apply [HERE](#)

Dear PhD Students,

We are delighted to invite you to the ninth annual Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium (WINDS). Hosted by the Wharton School, WINDS is a student-run, multidisciplinary conference dedicated to advancing research on innovation. WINDS brings together perspectives from diverse fields, including accounting, economics, finance, marketing, operations, organizational theory, and strategic management. Over the past eight years, WINDS has become a premier platform for doctoral students passionate about innovation research, fostering meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and connections among emerging scholars across disciplines.

The ninth annual WINDS conference will take place in person from March 6th to 7th, 2026. The event is organized by the [Mack Innovation Doctoral Association \(MIDAS\)](#) and supported by the [Mack Institute for Innovation Management](#) and [Wharton Doctoral Office](#). All conference information is available on WINDS' [webpage](#).

We welcome papers from diverse methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives that advance our understanding in organizations, markets and economies. Research topics may include, but are not limited to innovation strategy, entrepreneurship, venture capital and financing of innovation, intellectual property, innovation management, technology adoption, sustainability, consumer behavior and marketing, open innovation and emerging technologies.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome applications to WINDS and receive many submissions each year. To ensure a high-quality review process, please adhere to the following guidelines. Any submission that does not meet the stated requirements will be **desk-rejected**.

Important: By submitting a paper, you agree to review at least one (1) paper from another participant. We disclose that AI might be used in the reviewing stage to streamline the process.

- Submit a proposal summarizing the study you plan to present. Your complete proposal must

be no more than ten (10) pages, inclusive of text, graphs, tables, references, and appendices (if any).

- We welcome incomplete research endeavors. All work must be original and unpublished.
- A double-blind review process will be implemented. Applicants should NOT identify themselves in any part or in any form of the submitted research.

Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 (11:59 PM EST)
- **Review Period:** January 5–20, 2026
- **Notification of Decisions:** Late January 2026
- **Registration Deadline:** February 15, 2026
- **Conference Dates:** March 6–7, 2026

Full coverage of accommodation (two nights between March 6 and 7) will be provided to selected presenters (hotel reservations will be made by Wharton). The presenters will also receive reimbursement for transportation expenses in the range of \$300 - \$600, depending on travel distance and required transportation mode, etc. The event has no registration fee for presenters.

The presentation will consist of a 25-minute presentation plus a 5-minute Q&A that provides students with an opportunity to present more in-depth findings and receive extensive feedback. Because we strongly encourage a multi-disciplinary approach presenters will be grouped into sessions based on phenomena as opposed to discipline.

We hope you will decide to join our ninth annual symposium and our vibrant community of scholars passionate about innovation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Organizing Committee at windsteam@wharton.upenn.edu.

We look forward to seeing you in person in March 2026!

[WINDS Student Organizing Committee](#)

Devanshi Agarwal

Enzo Bergamo

Vanessa Jia

Na Hyun Kim

Larry Lin

Sachin Srivastava

Fernando Stein (President, MIDAS 2025) fsteinv@wharton.upenn.edu

Jimmy Zhang