

Strategic Initiative Accelerator Program

I. Program Overview:

The Strategic Initiative Accelerator Program (SIAP) is an initiative by the Innovation Hub at the Central Bank of Kuwait that aims to identify and support talented Kuwaiti individuals with innovative initiatives that address strategic challenges relevant to the CBK and the banking sector.

The program provides participants with a structured development journey through mentoring, workshops and milestone-based guidance to support the development of practical, research-based and technology-driven initiatives.

II. Program Objectives

The program aims to:

- screen talented Kuwaiti individuals with technical, analytical and research capabilities.
- Support practical initiatives that address strategic challenges relevant to the CBK.
- Encourage innovative research, analysis and technology-driven solutions.
- Support participants in developing practical and executable initiatives through structured mentoring and milestone-based guidance.
- Promote collaboration between participants, subject matter experts and partner institutions.

III. Program Themes

Applicants should submit their initiative under one of the following themes.

1. Data Analytics & Predictive Modelling:

- Initiatives involving data analysis, forecasting, predictive modelling, dashboards and decision-support tools.

2. Artificial Intelligence:

- Practical applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning that address clearly defined problems and provide measurable value.

3. Cybersecurity, Digital Trust & Resilience:

- Initiatives that strengthen cybersecurity, digital trust, cyber resilience and secure digital environments.

4. Cryptography & Secure Technologies:

- Initiatives involving cryptography, secure information management and trusted digital technologies.

5. Digital Transformation & Emerging Technologies:

- Innovative initiatives that improve processes, services or operational efficiency through practical technology applications.

IV. Who Can Participate?

Interested applicants are required to submit their request starting from 1 September to 1 October 2026 upon the following conditions:

- Applicants must be Kuwaiti individuals aged 18 years and above.
- Applicant should not be attached, directly or indirectly, with an existing fintech or financial institution.
- Applicant's idea should be aligned with the defined theme and problem statements.
- Applicant must have the willingness to develop the idea and work in teams.
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to the program and be open to feedback, mentorship, and coaching to refine their ideas and business models.

V. Proposal Requirements

Kindly complete all fields clearly and please send the following information to Accelerator@cbk.gov.kw

Applicant Information:

- Full Name
- Nationality
- Year of Birth
- Email Address
- Contact Number
- Current Occupation
- Academic & Professional Background

Please provide information on:

- Educational Qualification
- Field of Study
- Professional Experience (if applicable)
- Technical Skills
- Research Experience (if applicable)

Proposal Information:

- Selected Program Theme
- Initiative Summary
- Problem Statement
- Innovative Aspects

Current Stage of Development:

- Idea
- Concept
- Prototype
- Proof of Concept (PoC)
- Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

VI. Important Note

The Strategic Initiative Accelerator Program (SIAP) is intended for individual applicants only.

Participation in the program does not constitute regulatory approval, licensing, admission to the Regulatory Sandbox, or any commitment by the CBK to adopt, implement or fund the proposed initiative. Applications primarily related to licensing requests, Regulatory Sandbox applications, Electronic Payment services, Digital Wallets, Payment Gateways, Open Banking implementation, or existing commercial products requiring regulatory approval fall outside the scope of the program and will not be considered.