

Track Selection Framework

The THiNK Fellowship Program uses a structured track selection framework to ensure that each fellow is placed in the learning pathway that best aligns with the maturity of their project, technical capabilities, and development goals. The objective is to provide participants with the appropriate level of mentorship, technical support, and validation required to maximize the success of their projects.

Track assignment is conducted during the application and selection process and is based on a holistic assessment of both the applicant and the proposed solution. While applicants may indicate their preferred track, the final placement is determined by the Fellowship Selection Committee to ensure the best fit.

Track Selection Criteria

Applicants are assessed using the following criteria:

1. Project Maturity

The current stage of the proposed solution is evaluated to determine its readiness for development or deployment.

Project Stage	Recommended Track
Idea or Concept	Track B - Solution Build
Prototype	Track B - Solution Build
Functional MVP	Track A - Solution Deployment
Near-Complete Solution	Track A - Solution Deployment
Existing Production Solution	Track A - Solution Deployment

2. Technical Capability

The committee evaluates the applicant's ability to successfully complete the proposed project within the fellowship period. This includes consideration of:

- Software development and engineering skills
- AI/ML or domain-specific expertise (where applicable)
- Experience with relevant technologies and tools
- Previous project experience
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively

3. Solution Feasibility

Projects are reviewed to determine whether they can realistically achieve the proposed objectives within the fellowship timeline. The assessment considers:

- Project scope
- Technical complexity
- Availability of required resources
- Time required for implementation
- Risks and dependencies

4. Ecosystem Alignment

Projects should demonstrate alignment with THiNK's mission and innovation priorities. Preference is given to solutions that:

- Address real-world challenges.
- Have clear social or economic impact.
- Can integrate with the THiNK ecosystem.
- Support community-driven innovation.
- Have potential for deployment or adoption by partner organizations.

5. Deployment Readiness

For applicants seeking placement in Track A, the committee assesses whether the solution is sufficiently mature for validation and deployment by considering:

- Functional completeness of the MVP.
- Code quality and maintainability.
- System architecture.
- Documentation.
- Security and performance considerations.
- Deployment feasibility.

Track Assignment Process

The track selection process follows a structured workflow:

1. **Application Submission** – Applicants submit their application, project summary, technical documentation, and supporting materials (e.g., GitHub repository, demo links, screenshots, or prototypes).
2. **Initial Screening** – Applications are reviewed for completeness and eligibility.
3. **Technical Assessment** – The Selection Committee evaluates the applicant and project against the defined assessment criteria.
4. **Interview (where applicable)** – Selected applicants may participate in a technical or project discussion to further assess readiness, clarify project goals, and determine support

needs.

5. **Track Recommendation** – Based on the assessment, the committee recommends the most appropriate fellowship track.
6. **Final Approval** – The Program Lead or Fellowship Coordinator confirms the track assignment and mentor allocation.
7. **Offer and Onboarding** – Successful applicants receive an offer letter indicating their fellowship track and onboarding instructions.

Flexibility During the Fellowship

While fellows are assigned a track at the start of the program, the THiNK Fellowship recognizes that projects may evolve during development. In exceptional cases, a fellow's track may be reviewed and adjusted if there is sufficient justification, such as:

- Significant changes in project scope or maturity.
- Successful acceleration of project development.
- Technical challenges requiring an alternative delivery approach.
- Recommendation from mentors and the Technical Review Team.

Any track changes are subject to approval by the Fellowship Coordinator and Program Lead.

Guiding Principle

The purpose of the Track Selection Framework is not to rank fellows but to ensure that each participant receives the most appropriate learning experience, technical support, and mentorship for the stage of their innovation journey. By aligning fellows with the track best suited to their project maturity and goals, the fellowship creates an environment where participants can build high-quality solutions, achieve meaningful outcomes, and successfully transition into deployment, commercialization, or further innovation opportunities.

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