

U21/PwC

Innovation Challenge

Competition Handbook



Competition Overview

Background

Universitas 21 and PwC, two globally-focused organisations, have come together to offer unique professional development opportunities for U21's network of graduate students. This alliance will prepare U21 students for the world of work by developing their presentation and communication skills so that they can share their insights and critical thinking with professionals in their field.

Why take part?

This online competition challenges U21 students to respond to contemporary, globally-important work-related issues (set by PwC) via a short three-minute video. The videos are judged by PwC and their clients, who are leaders in graduate career development. The challenge offers students the opportunity to apply their knowledge to 'real-world' situations and reflect on their own experiences.

Eligibility

The competition is open to any registered graduate student in one of U21's member universities (this includes students from taught and research masters programmes, MPhils etc., and PhDs). It is the responsibility of each U21 university to check the registration status of any student that they send forward as a finalist for adjudication. Students on joint PhDs between two U21 members are eligible to apply.

Prizes

The competition is divided into three groups (A, B & C) in order to ensure a fair distribution of prizes across U21's member institutions. One winning proposal will be selected from each round; the winner will be awarded with a week-long expenses-paid trip to Dubai, courtesy of PwC. Runners up will receive career development coaching sessions, courtesy of the PwC Academy. All approved entrants in the final group rounds will receive exclusive access to online courses provided by the PwC Academy and Coursera to support workplace skills development. A non-credited commendation certificate will be given by U21/PwC to each student who enters the competition.

Overview:

Winner (one per group):

- Expenses-paid visit to Dubai (7 days) meeting with staff at PwC Dubai who will arrange for you to visit some of the innovative projects in the city.
- An internship opportunity with either PwC or a locally based client.
- Career development coaching sessions with the PwC Academy.
- Free access to employability skills development online courses (Coursera and PwC Academy) with costs of the assessment and certificate covered.

Runners Up (two per group):

- Career coaching sessions with the PwC Academy.
- Online training courses (as above).

All Approved Entrants:

- Online training courses (as above).

Rules for submission:

- Entries to be submitted for final adjudication are limited to 3 per U21 institution and should be submitted to U21 via an agreed university contact. Students should not submit their videos directly to U21.
- Submissions must be via video format, either an MP4 file or .MOV. Files sent in any other format will not be accepted.
- Video presentations are strictly limited to 3 minutes and competitors exceeding this will be disqualified.
- Entrants will be judged on their presentation skills and they must feature in the video.
- Group submissions are not accepted.
- It is permissible to use a maximum of one slide per presentation.
- The 3-minute audio must be continuous – no edits or breaks etc.
- Presentations are to be spoken word only (e.g. no poems, raps or songs). No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted within the video recording.
- Props are not allowed.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.
- Group round winners and runners up will be expected to provide a report after the competition to reflect on their experience.

If you have any questions or need advice with any aspect of the competition, please contact connie.wan@universitas21.com

Intellectual Property:

By submitting an entry to the Innovation Challenge, students are acknowledging that their ideas/research will be made publicly accessible and shared with industry professionals. Videos will be uploaded to Vimeo and disseminated through the U21 website and social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram), and PwC's media channels. Student videos will be shared with PwC's clients (they will be notified which clients and be contacted should any work-related opportunities arise). Judges, reviewers, staff and the audience will not be asked to sign non-disclosure statements.

U21 and PwC may take stills, video and/or audio clips of the presentations, or copy material prepared for use in the presentation, for promotional purposes. If the student's presentation draws on work/research that is being/has been conducted under contract with an outside sponsor, they are advised to discuss the related contractual terms of confidentiality and intellectual property with their supervisor(s) before participating in this competition. U21 and PwC have the right to ask a student to withdraw from the competition if these conditions are not met.

Information for Universities

Register your Institution

Upon registration you will obtain access to marketing material (including U21's branding collateral and guidelines) to help promote the competition, along with other advice and support needed.

You will need to register your institution in order to take part. This registration process will ask you to identify one named contact who U21 will communicate and support. This contact will also be required to promote the competition to their respective students, and submit their videos on their behalf. The named contact will be notified (along with the student) of the outcome of the competition.

Visit www.universitas21.com/pwc to fill out the online registration form. Deadlines are one week prior to the competition opening:

- **Group A** - deadline Mon 16 April 2018 (completed and results announced)
- **Group B** - deadline Mon 1 October 2018
- **Group C** - deadline Mon 14 January 2019

Notifying Students and Preparation

Universities should circulate a general call for interest to students several weeks in advance of the challenge announcement to ensure maximum participation. At this stage students can be given a link to the competition details and access to videos from previous rounds on the U21 website.

It may be useful for your university's named contact to seek assistance from interested individual academic or professional staff (e.g. from the Careers Office) for advice/guidance in preparing for shortlisting your university's three finalists.

You may also want to consider offering skills-focused training workshops or feedback sessions alongside this competition, to ensure a wider student reach. U21 can offer advice and provide peer-to-peer support on how other universities have promoted and supported the participation of their students within the competition. Contact Connie Wan (connie.wan@universitas21.com) should you be interested in e.g. development of skills training, preliminary long-listing process etc.

Progression

Each participating university is responsible for its own internal selection process to choose 3 entries to submit to the U21 competition. It is up to each institution to decide whether selection takes place by means of pre-recorded video presentations submitted by the students, or as a live session. The successful entries (max. 3 from each institution) must be submitted in video format to U21; these can be uploaded together with the submission form. These finalists will be put forward to PwC and their client base for judging and selection.

Selecting Your Judging Panel

To ensure a level of consistency across all internal heats, U21 recommends considering the following when selecting your judging panel:

- Ensure that your judging panel is balanced especially by academic/professional positions and discipline; the Innovation Challenge is open to those studying in all disciplines.
- Include three to five judges on your panel.
- Ensure that your judges follow the judging criteria on page 8.

- Consider including a professional, non-academic member of staff such as an individual from Marketing or Careers/Employability.

Tips and Suggestions

- U21 will be available to the universities' named contacts throughout the process if they have any questions or encounter any difficulties.
- It is the responsibility of the U21 institution to ensure that students are made aware of Intellectual Property implications and agree to their videos being disseminated on the U21 and PwC websites, social media, and to industry professionals.
- Consider providing your students with the appropriate filming equipment to ensure that they have the right means to film.
- Check the video submissions before you submit them; make sure that the video plays and that the sound on the finalist's submission is audible.
- All videos submitted to the U21
- competition should be sent by the named contact in each university. Students cannot submit their own video directly to U21 for round adjudication.
- While individual universities may give general advice to students on their entries, the ideas contained in the students' submission should reflect their own original thoughts and ideas.
- Your institution contact will be notified should one of your students be awarded a prize with further details of how they can claim their prize ahead of any wider announcement.

Group Rounds

The competition is split into three designated zones determined by term dates. The areas and their respective deadlines are as follows. The dates shown for Group B and Group C are still subject to slight change. The challenge questions will be sent out to U21 institutions the week prior to the competition opening.

Group A

University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales
University of Queensland
University of Auckland
Fudan University
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Waseda University
University of Delhi

Challenge announced: Mon 23 April 2018

Deadline for entries: Fri 25 May 2018

Judging: week beginning 4 June

Group B

Pontifical University of Chile
Hong Kong University
National University of Singapore
Korea University
Tecnológico de Monterrey
University of Connecticut
University of Maryland
University of British Columbia
McMaster University

Challenge announced: Mon 8 October 2018

Deadline for entries: Fri 16 November 2018

Judging: week beginning 19 Nov

Group C

University of Amsterdam
University of Birmingham
University of California, Davis
University College Dublin
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of Johannesburg
Lund University
University of Nottingham
University of Zurich

Challenge announced: Mon 21 January 2019

Deadline for entries: Fri 1 March 2019

Judging: week beginning 4 Mar 2019

Information for Students

When and how to register

A few weeks before the challenge is released by U21, your university will announce an initial call for entry or expression for interest.

When you receive this, get in touch with your university contact to express your interest in taking part in the competition. If you do not receive such notification, contact Connie Wan via connie.wan@universitas21.com and you will be provided information of your university contact.

Your university will provide you with the challenge question to which you have to respond – ensure that you have ready access to video/filming equipment and have familiarised yourself with the rules (see page 2). Your university will set a shortlisting process in order to choose three entries to be put through to the U21 group round final.

Preparation

Preparation for this competition is key. A few tips on how to prepare for the competition:

- **Research the challenge.** You want to demonstrate your ability to present a well-rounded argument. It's your chance to show them how much you know.
- **Consider what to include in your slide** (if using) There is nothing worse than having to stare at a redundant slide during a presentation – make sure you make it work for you!
- **Learn your 'script'.** It is better to have a structure in mind for what you're going to say. Writing it down will save you time and effort when it comes around to filming.
- **Practice!** Practice your script so that you become fluent – you are being judged on your ability to articulate your opinion and knowledge.
- **Think about how you want to present yourself.** First impressions count, make sure that you're dressed appropriately.
- **Watch the previous winning videos.** Get an idea of what is expected. Videos can be accessed via the U21 website.

Judging Criteria

On page 8 you will see the list of judging criteria which looks at both comprehension and content, as well as engagement and communication. Take note of this when you're preparing and practising your presentation.

The following is an example of what the challenge could look like:

We are living through a fundamental transformation in the way we work; automation and thinking machines' are replacing human tasks, changing the skills that organisations are looking for in their people. But what will the future look like? PwC has developed four scenarios in their Workforce of the Future study (www.pwc.com/people): a Red World where innovation rules; a Blue World where corporate is king; a Green World where companies care, and a Yellow World where humans come first. Assuming you find yourself on a journey that looks like it ends in a 'Red World' scenario where Innovation Rules, what are the pros and cons for you? What skills will be important for individuals to thrive in this world, and how do you plan on adapting to it?

→ How would you respond to this challenge?

Intellectual Property - IMPORTANT!

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N.B. PwC are not guaranteeing any job placements and are not acting as a recruitment agent, they will however be providing guidance and training on how to enhance employability skills and share videos with key client judges who are looking for top talent. If possible, PwC will assist in arranging a local internship opportunity.

What to do if you win

First of all - celebrate! You (and your institution contact) will be notified by U21 within two weeks of the judging process. Note that the Winner and Runners Up will be required to put together a short report of their experience.

Winner

If you have won the first prize, a trip to Dubai and an internship opportunity, you will be required to check your visa status and make travel insurance arrangements with your institution. You will be contacted by PwC who will find a suitable time for you to travel (travel dates are flexible). They will also want to know about your career interests and will arrange for you to visit some of the innovative projects in Dubai. Of course you will also get time to see the sights and explore the city!

Runners Up

You will receive exclusive coaching sessions with the PwC Academy. This is flexible and will be tailored to your development needs; PwC will be your point of contact. Depending on your location, the coaching sessions may take place either remotely or face to face.

Group Round Entrants

Everyone who submits a valid entry into the final group round will receive access to online training courses via the PwC Academy and Coursera. These courses are aimed at helping you develop your skills so that you will be prepared for life in the workplace. PwC will contact you directly to provide you instructions on how to access the courses.

Information for Judges

Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below (whether in local university heats or final group round). Please note that each criterion is equally weighted.

Comprehension and Content

- Did the candidate have a logical approach to answering the question? - i.e. familiarity with the background material, a set of key considerations.
- Did the candidate clearly explain their point of view?
- Did the candidate articulate the conclusions and recommendations clearly?
- Did the candidate provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the candidate spend adequate time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement and Communication

- Did the presentation make you want to know more from this candidate and potentially employ them?
- Did the candidate convey enthusiasm for the challenge and genuine interest in the problem?
- Did the candidate capture and maintain your attention? (sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, confident stance)

If you have any questions or need advice with any aspect of the competition, please contact connie.wan@universitas21.com

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