**NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competition Terms and Conditions 2025**

The NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competitionis an entrepreneurship competition, run by NovaUCD, that provides a framework to support UCD undergraduate and postgraduate students who want to work together to develop and grow start-up companies. The NovaUCD Student Enterprise Competitionruns from May 25th – June 19th 2026. This competition will be run in person at NovaUCD.

The aim of this competition is to assist the students in refining their start-up ideas through a series of structured workshops, including taught content from industry experts, interactive workshops, regular pitching sessions and mentoring.

Accessing the competition is as follows.

1. Interested teams will submit an application form & recorded video pitch on or before April 17th.
2. 10 teams will be selected to participate in the competition.
3. Teams will be notified by April 24th if they have been selected.
4. The competition runs from May 25th – June 19th 2026

**Applicants**

Applicants must be current undergraduate or postgraduate students of University College Dublin (UCD). Individuals must be available to attend all workshops, mentoring sessions, and final pitching event, from May 25th – June 19th 2026. Students who have course modules to complete and summer projects / thesis, during this time will not have sufficient time to participate as required. Priority should be given to accredited course commitments.

The competition is open to teams of up to 3 members. Each team may have a mix of disciplines and levels (i.e., teams may consist of both UCD undergraduate and postgraduate students.) While it is preferable for applications to comprise of more than one person, individuals can apply. Teams should specify in their application form if other people have been involved in the project at an earlier stage but are not entering the competition.

Information that the team considers confidential should not be included in the application form.

Changes to team membership during the competition should be identified in writing to the competition coordinator and they will be confirmed in writing by the competition coordinator to all members of the original and new team. Team composition can change if a team member voluntarily decides to leave the team or if a team member fails to meet the attendance criteria.

Successful teams will be required to sign a Team Declaration document which will govern their participation in the competition. The declaration will ensure obligations are clear to all parties. These obligations include attendance, a documented agreement on intellectual property ownership and the requirement to attend a ‘working in teams’ workshop.

**Team Charter**

As part of the learning experience all participants will be required to attend a mandatory ‘working in teams’ workshop at the start of the competition. This workshop will inform the students about different working styles, help them set a team charter and give them a sense of what it will be like to work in a team in an intensive environment for 4 weeks. It will also cover team conflict and breakdown so that teams are given tools to manage issues themselves in as far as is possible. A procedure for highlighting team breakdowns to NovaUCD will be covered.

**Intellectual Property**

Ownership of all intellectual property (IP) must be clear and unambiguous before applying for a place on the competition. Ownership and relative shares of intellectual property must be clearly identified and agreed before commencing the competition. This inventory of IP and ownership will be documented in the Team Declaration document that will be signed by all team members before May 25th 2026.

Where the team has formed for the purposes of applying for the competition, and IP is wholly owned by the “founder” this should be specified. If the team decide, as the competition proceeds, to share the IP this is an agreement between the team and not the responsibility of NovaUCD to moderate. Relative ownership of IP has no connection to the share of any prize money.

**Dispute Resolution**

Where possible team disputes should be resolved by the team independently. The competition coordinator should be informed of significant disputes and if appropriate these can be escalated according to the Mediation and Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Teams are expected to work together in a professional and respectful manner. If this rule is not adhered to, the team will be given a formal warning and then if the situation continues and is not resolved within 2 days, the team will be asked to leave the competition.

**Prize money**

All teams will pitch to a panel of judges at the final event on June 19th and a cash prize of €3000 will be awarded to the winning team.

All prizes are per team regardless of team size.

Payment of the prize will be made provided the team have attended at least 50% of the workshops and mentoring sessions. Team attendance is defined as at least one member of the team attending.

The prize payment will be made directly into the team leaders bank account. This individual must have attended at least 50% of the workshops, mentoring and final pitching event. The team leader will be identified in the Team Declaration document. The prize money will be shared equally between team members.

UCD takes no part in moderating this sharing of prize funds.

Decisions of the judging panels are final. These terms and conditions are indicative only and subject to change.