Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurship GCC 2021

Pan-GCC virtual hackathon on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for University students
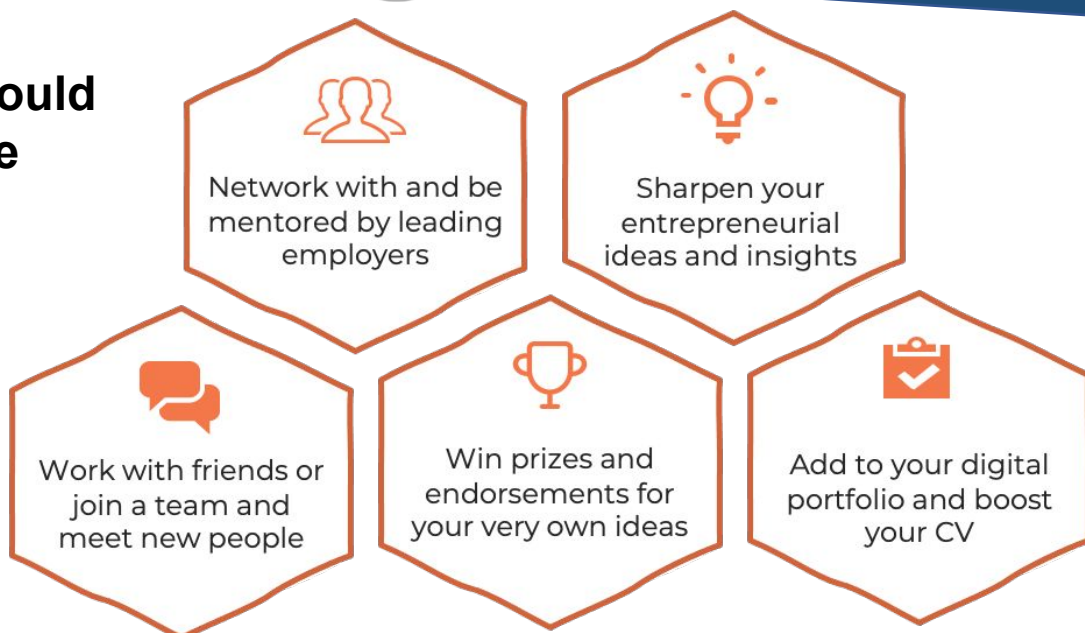
Briefing document for Students

The Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurship 2021 (ICE-21) is a unique opportunity to pitch your ideas to leading graduate employers and investors as well as win fabulous prizes

Are YOU an Entrepreneur?

The **Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurship 2021 (ICE-21)** is a virtual competition for teams of students to pitch their own entrepreneurial ideas. Teams will be mentored by leading employers who are scouting talent for their graduate, placement and internship programs.

Why should you take part?

Network with and be mentored by leading employers

Sharpen your entrepreneurial ideas and insights

Work with friends or join a team and meet new people

Win prizes and endorsements for your very own ideas

Add to your digital portfolio and boost your CV

ICE-21 is a brilliant opportunity for many reasons. For starters you have the chance to impress leading employers, who are actively looking for new recruits. You can also add this to your CV, along with a certificate to put on your LinkedIn.

You can work with friends or join a team of other students to work together on your ideas. The competition is filled with events, such as skill workshops and socials to get to know the other teams. Oh, and of course prizes for the winning teams!

What topics will you be working on?

ICE-21 will invite students to submit their innovation and entrepreneurship ideas and proposals on any one of the following **six tracks**. Each track will feature key problem statements to tackle, although you can also suggest your own ideas.

Fintech	Energy & Environment	Mobility	Health and Wellness	AI/ Robotics	Social Impact

When is ICE-21 and what does it involve?

The Challenge will be held during **1 March to 8 April 2021**. However, during this time, you will be expected to commit only 3-5 hours per week on a flexible schedule to minimise any disruption to your academic schedule.

The Challenge will involve **two-phases**. In **Phase-1** *(1-20 March),* you will collaborate with your team virtually to prepare and submit a **business plan** (and optionally a video pitch) on your idea. An independent panel of judges will evaluate your submission and invite select teams for Phase-2.

In **Phase-2** *(6-8 April),* you will engage in a virtual event filled with workshops, mentor sessions, socials and finally **pitch** to the panel who will select the winners.

The virtual challenge will take place on ProjectSet platform where you and your team will have an exclusive online workspace equipped with project tools.

We will announce the names of employer partners and prizes shortly. To participate in ICE-21, register online **here** by **27 Feb 2021**

Date	Event
1 Feb	Registration opens
27 Feb	Registration closes
1 Mar	Phase-1 starts
20 Mar	Phase-1 ends
1 Apr	Phase-1 results
6 Apr	Phase-2 starts
8 Apr	Phase-2 ends
8 Apr	Phase-2 results

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Hackathon?

Hackathons are events where people come together (physically or remotely!) and collaborate in small teams to come up with creative solutions to specific problems, within a set time limit. Traditionally, hackathons were all about coding or creating hardware/software, but the definition has changed to become more inclusive.

What will the prizes be?

We will have exciting prizes worth thousands of pounds for all winners. Watch this space for more details. We will also offer all participants involved a Certificate.

Is it free to participate? What do I need?

Yes - participation is entirely free. All you will need is a computer/laptop and a half-decent internet connection.

How is ICE 21 different?

ICE 21 is different from other, existing hackathons in a few ways. Firstly, the hackathon will involve students in multiple universities across the GCC region, allowing for a more diverse range of fellow participants, as well as the chance to connect with people outside your typical university bubble! Secondly, the themes of the various tracks have been selected specifically to tackle some of the most important issues and phenomena that will affect us all in the years to come. We will only solve these problems with the kind of innovation and entrepreneurship that this event aims to promote! This could be a chance to get involved in something that really makes a difference. And lastly, ICE 21 is entirely virtual! Powered by ProjectSet's online collaborative tool, you will be able to discuss your ideas, receive guidance, present, and be judged - all from the comfort of your own home!

Can I take part?

ICE 21 is an event for students and recent grads of any discipline and background - and that's it! There are no other barriers to entry and absolutely no costs. The event aims to help university students and recent grads (having graduated in Summer 2019 or after) who are looking to gain experience, skills, and exposure to employers, in a time when internships and work experience opportunities are scarcer than they have been in recent years.

How will ICE 21 help me?

As well as being a fun way to connect with fellow students over relevant innovations, ICE 21 will be a fantastic way to boost your CV, especially in a time when the future of internships and work experience is a little uncertain! You will pick up key skills - including teamwork, communication, working to deadlines, thinking outside the box, compromising, working virtually, and self-management - all of which are amongst the top skills valued by employers! We will additionally be allowing employers to connect with star participants after the event, meaning this could be a great way to secure future opportunities with some of our great sponsors.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

How many people can I have in my team?

You need at least 2, and at most 5 people in your team. They may be enrolled in the same or in different universities. This is a great opportunity to team up with a group of peers and come up with awesome ideas, for a good cause - and get rewarded for it.

How do I form a team?

It's simple and easy. Just select the option 'Form my own team' when you register for ICE 21 (registration will open on 1st Feb). You will be prompted to enter the email IDs of the other members of your team, and they will automatically be informed and connected to your team. In addition, if you select the option to 'Allow applications', other students registering on the platform can choose to join your team. This is a great way to connect with new people, or top-up a partly-staffed team! Once you have submitted your team, you will still be able to make changes right up until the sign-up deadline closes.

How do I join an existing team?

It's simple to join a team, too! Just select the option 'Join an existing team' when you register for ICE 21 (registration will open on 1st Feb). You will be able to view the teams open to additional members, and view parts of the team members' profiles. If interested, apply to join the team with just a click. You can apply to more than one team - however, you will be automatically assigned to the first team that accepts your application.

How much should my team be working?

You can spend as much or as little time on the hackathon as you want to; it is entirely up to you and your team. We recommend you plan for just 6-10 hours total across the 3 weeks of Phase-1 (1-20 March) and - if your team qualifies - a more intense period of work in Phase-2 (6-8 April). Of course, the more time you invest, the more people you will connect with and the more valuable your ideas and experience are likely to be.

Can I change track if I change my mind?

You may change your track if you change your mind. All you need to do is to opt out of the team (you will find a button on the dashboard) and join another team from another track. If you require any help with this, please just email support@projectset.com

Will we get help? What happens if we get stuck?

Of course. You will have a mentor to guide your team as well as the opportunity to join several virtual tutorials during Phase-1 (1-20 March). In Phase-2 (6-8 April), you will get active coaching and guidance from your mentor, and a host of advice and steering from business and thought leaders. Finally, our team will be on hand to help you if you get stuck.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

What if I don't know much about my track of choice?

You really don't need to come armed with any existing knowledge. We will provide pointers of things you might like to think about, and of course your mentor will be on hand to give advice. Learning along the way is one of the key aims of ICE 21. You will also likely find that once you start talking with your team, the creative juices start to flow!

What if I am unsure of what track to pick?

If you are unsure which track to pick simply register for all the tracks you are interested in and then let us know your final decision by the 27 Feb by emailing support@projectset.com

What if I want to participate in multiple tracks?

You are more than welcome to participate in multiple tracks, simply sign up for all the tracks you are interested in! Please take responsibility for the workload this will entail and if you decide to drop out of any of the tracks you must email support@projectset.com by the 27 Feb.

I am close with or live with my teammates; do I have to interact on the platform? Can't we just discuss our ideas in real life?

Of course, you can share and discuss ideas offline. At the same time, we encourage you to log all your key ideas on the platform to get the most benefit. Firstly, this will allow your mentors to see what you are working on and offer proper advice. Secondly, it will help the judges evaluate your work, notably on your collaboration and teamwork, which will be one of the judging criteria.

What if I don't want to present?

One of the advantages of virtual working is that some of the pressure is off! Presenting online is far less scary than in real life, plus you'll be presenting alongside your teammates. If you've never presented before, or have had limited experience presenting at university, this could be a great opportunity to develop your skills.

How and when will we be evaluated?

The judging panel will be independent of the organiser and will comprise business leaders with strong knowledge and experience relating to the themes. They will review all submissions and offer feedback within a week. We will share the evaluation criteria with you during the onboarding session.

What if I have more questions?

Please ask away! You can send questions at any time to support@projectset.com - if you make the subject title of your email 'ICE 21 Student Query' then we can get back to you even sooner.

How do I Sign Up?

To participate in ICE-21, register online **here** before **27 Feb 2021**

ICE-21 GCC is powered by ProjectSet

ProjectSet is an online platform for employers, educators and students to collaborate on virtual projects, all year round. These are intended help students to build their Digital portfolio and Cv, whilst learning the soft skills they need for their future careers. The projects are internships, hackathons or project-based learning programs.

ProjectSet is based in the UK with a user community from over 100 universities. For more information, please view the website, or simply drop an email to support@projectset.com

PROJECTSET

VIRTUAL INTERNSHIPS, HACKATHONS AND PROJECT-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS

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