

Pitch for the Planet 2024

University of Sussex Student Innovation Competition 2024 Terms and Conditions

1. The competition

1.1 The competition is open to all students enrolled at the University of Sussex ("the University") at the date of launch ("Entrants").

1.2 Entrants must develop and submit a proposal to maximise sustainability at Sussex. The proposal must be centred around meeting and exceeding the aims highlighted in the Sustainable Sussex Strategy and have a direct impact on sustainability at the University of Sussex, the campus and/or the wider community. The proposal should meet one more of the aims found in the objectives of the Sustainability Strategy, on which more information can be found on the Sussex website:

1.2.1 Ethical Educators

1.2.2 Decarbonising the Economy

1.2.3 Civic Leaders and Partners

1.2.4 Environmental Champions

1.3 The winning Entrants will be selected at a live 'dragons' den' style pitching event held on 24 April at 14:00-17:00. A panel of judges ("**the Panel**") will award prizes to up to 4 Entrants at the event. Entrants should ensure they are available to attend the live pitch event in person, at the Auditorium of the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA), University of Sussex.

2. How to enter

2.1 The competition will run from 10am on Monday 19 February 2024 (the "**Date of Launch**") to 17:30 on Wednesday 24 April 2024 (the "**Closing Date**") inclusive.

2.2 Entrants must submit a fully completed Application form and complete a 20 Minute Business Plan selecting 'Pitch for the Planet' **no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday 03 April 2024**. All competition entries received after this time are automatically disqualified.

2.3 The Application form is available via the link above, together with further information and these terms and conditions on the competition website.

- 2.4 The University will **not** accept responsibility for competition entries that are lost, mislaid, damaged or delayed in entry or submission, regardless of cause, including, for example, as a result of any equipment failure, technical malfunction, systems, satellite, network, server, computer hardware or software failure of any kind.
- 2.5 By submitting a competition entry, Entrants are agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions. It is their responsibility to ensure that their entry complies with any relevant data protection requirements and that they agree to the submission of their contribution to this competition and for the wider and further promotional activities proposed for winners detailed in condition 4.9 below.
- 2.6 For help with entries, please contact the sustainability team at sustainable@sussex.ac.uk or see [the competition website](#).
- 2.7 The competition entries will be shortlisted by members of the University's Sustainability Team and other sustainability and innovation professionals selecting the best eight (8) entries based on the Application form and 20 Minute Business Plan.
- 2.8 Shortlisted Entrants will be notified by 17 April 2024. If you have not been contacted by this date, your entry has not been shortlisted.
- 2.9 Shortlisted Entrants will pitch their entries at the live event on 24 April 2024 at 14:00-17:00 in the ACCA Auditorium, University of Sussex. The Panel will select up to 4 winning entries at the live event based on pre-agreed marking criteria. The live event may be video recorded.
- 2.10 The decision of the Panel acting reasonably and selection of the shortlist will be final. Names of the Panel can be viewed on the [competition website](#).

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 The competition is only open to all students enrolled at the University at the Date of Launch, which meet the below criteria:
- (a) Must be available for the full length of [the Accelerator](#) (3 June – 12 July)
 - (b) Must be able to attend in-person workshops (either on campus or in Brighton) across the full Accelerator term
 - (c) Must be willing to participate in 12 month incubator, beginning September 2024
 - (d) Must have an established/trading business/social enterprise, or have developed their idea to a point where it is ready to become a registered business/sole trader
- 3.2 Entrants should note that international students cannot engage in business activity while on a Student visa. You are allowed to research ideas and theoretically explore venture creation, but you cannot launch or trade while on a Student visa. Winners of

Pitch for the Planet are expected to develop their ideas into trading enterprises, so please consider your visa status when entering the competition. Those on a Graduate visa are allowed to work self-employed in the UK for up to two years. Find out more about what you can do after graduation in the UK. The University does not accept liability whatsoever in respect of any violation or revocation of an Entrant's visa as a result of entering this competition.

- 3.3 Entries are limited to one per student. Team entries are eligible, with teams consisting of no more than 6, all team members must be enrolled at the University at the Date of Launch.
- 3.4 In entering the competition, each Entrant including each team member confirms that they are eligible to do so. The University reserves all rights to disqualify if conduct of any Entrant including any team member or an entry is contrary to the spirit or intention of this competition.
- 3.5 The University will not accept competition entries that are:
 - a) Untrue or inaccurate
 - b) automatically generated by computer;
 - c) illegible, have been altered, reconstructed, forged or tampered with; or
 - d) are not original pieces of work.
- 3.6 Competition entries cannot be returned.

4. The prize

- 4.1 Following the decision of the Panel, up to four cash prizes, each of a maximum of £5000, will be awarded to the winning Entrants.
- 4.2 Winning Entrants will be contacted by the University within 48 hours of the live event and prizes will be paid within twenty eight days (28) following the winning entrants completion of the Accelerator.
- 4.3 Entrants will be paid via their Sussex Direct accounts, no other payment method is accepted by the University. It is the Entrant's responsibility to ensure that personal payment details in Sussex Direct are up to date and that the correct account information is provided to the University, in order to ensure correct payment.
- 4.4 Any prize awarded to a team entry shall be divided equally between the team members and each individual share of the prize shall be paid into each team member's Sussex Direct account.
- 4.5 In addition, the winning Entrants will receive incubation support from the University's Entrepreneurship Team, including through the Accelerator between 3 June – 12 July 2024. More details can be found on the competition website.

- 4.6 To receive the prize, winning Entrants must meaningfully engage with the Entrepreneurship Team through attending 100% of the Accelerator, unless extenuating circumstances are reported to and accepted by the Entrepreneurship Team and Sustainability Engagement Manager.
- 4.7 The winning Entrants may request access to the Sustainability Team's connections and resources within the University, as applicable to the winning Entrant's proposal. The Sustainability Team reserve the right to accept or decline resource or connection requests based on applicability and capacity.
- 4.8 Winning Entrants will be required to provide progress reports on the use of prize money and progress of the project to the University's Sustainability Engagement Manager, who will keep track of this information, including mandatory calls at 6 and 12 months following the prize awarding.
- 4.9 The University will publish the winning entry names and relevant schools of study and the winning entries, including recorded video of pitches from the live event, on the University website. If you object to any or all of your name, school of study or winning entry being published or made available, please contact the sustainability team at sustainable@sussex.ac.uk prior to 24 April 2024. In some circumstances, the University may still be required to provide the information and winning entry upon lawful request.

5. Project logistics

- 5.1 Entrants should understand that any winning projects involving fauna (i.e. animal or insect life) will need to:
- a) be approved by the University's Deputy Chief Technical Officer; and
 - b) be subject to an ethical review by the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body.
- 5.2 Entrants should understand that winning projects involving plans to set up a physical project on or near the campus will need to agree the location and scope of the project with the University's Sustainability Engagement Manager to ensure it is compliant with relevant ethical, health and safety and operational requirements prior to commencement.

6. Limitation of liability

- 6.1 Insofar as is permitted by law, the University will not in any circumstances be responsible or liable to compensate any Entrant or accept any liability for any loss, damage, personal injury or death occurring as a result of entering the competition or taking up the prize except where it is caused by the negligence of the University. Your statutory rights are not affected.

7. Ownership of competition entries and intellectual property rights

- 7.1 The University does not claim any rights of ownership in your competition entry.
- 7.2 By submitting your entry, you agree that the University may, but is not required to, make your entry or further information that you provide available on its website and any other media including social media platforms, whether now known or invented in the future, and in connection with any publicity of the competition or the winning entries. You agree to grant the University a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable licence, for the full period of any intellectual property rights in the competition entry and accompanying details provided in the Application form, to use, display, publish, transmit, copy, edit, store, re-format and sub-licence the competition entry and any accompanying details for such purposes.

8. Data protection and publicity

- 8.1 The competition will involve the processing of personal data of Entrants, including name, contact details, school of study, year of study, and student number. Personal data will be processed in accordance with the UK data protection legislation and the University's Data Protection Policy. See also condition 2.9 with regard to recording shortlisted entrants' pitches and condition 4.9 with regard to the announcement of winning entries.
- 8.2 Entrants agree by entering the competition that the University may use photos and videos taken at the event, which they may appear in, on the University's website and social media. If you object to appearing in images and videos, please contact the Sustainability Team at sustainable@sussex.ac.uk prior to April 24 2024.

9. General

- 9.1 If there is any reason to believe that there has been a breach of these terms and conditions, the University may, at its sole discretion, exclude an individual or team Entrant from participating in the competition.
- 9.2 The University reserves the right to hold void, suspend, cancel, or amend the prize or the competition where it becomes necessary to do so.
- 9.3 These terms and conditions shall be governed by English law, and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

End of Terms and Conditions