***Unisa Innovation Challenge (IC)***

*The Forge*

Intsimbi ilola intsimbi

(Iron sharpens Iron)

**2022 Call for Applications**

**Closing date:30 April 2022**

****

Do **YOU** have what it takes to solve a ***SOCIETAL CHALLENGE***? If yes, submit an IC Application form that details your innovative idea and stand a chance to WIN great prizes!

Who is eligible to participate:

* **ALL** Unisa students currently registered in 2022 (1st and 2nd Semester), irrespective of the qualification registered for or duration or level of study.

Important Information to Note

* The idea/concept/product must be *innovative* and targeted at addressing a *Societal Challenge.*
* An idea is considered *innovative* if it is new and has not been implemented before to solve the identified societal challenge or is an improvement over existing solutions wherein the improvement provides a significant benefit to the target audience or market.
* *Societal Challenges* in this context refers to the problems that our society is grappling to resolve. These may be national and include cross-cutting such as poverty, food security, access to health, achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender parity, sluggish economic growth, unemployment, access to health care, access to cheap reliable source of energy or portable water, etc.

<http://www.statssa.gov.za/MDG/SDGs_Country_Report_2019_South_Africa.pdf>

<https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/Executive%20Summary-NDP%202030%20-%20Our%20future%20-%20make%20it%20work.pdf>

Some may be local affecting only a particular sector or group of people. For more examples of some of the challenges: <http://openix.co.za/openix/inter-university-innovation-challenge>

How to Participate?

**APPLICATION FORM**

****

Assessment Criteria for Pre-selection Stage

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Problem definition (20%):** | **The extent to which the challenge being resolved has been clearly identified and defined.** |
| **Innovativeness of the proposed solution (50%):** | **The extent to which the solution is new or is a significant improvement over existing solution.** |
| **Feasibility of the proposed solution (20%):** | **The extent to which the proposed solution is feasible having regard to the technical aspects of the project, timelines, team, partnerships, financial resources, etc.** |
| **Potential Impact of the proposed solution (10%):** | **The extent to which the proposed solution will impact positively on the identified challenge.** |

Assessment Criteria for shortlisting and Final Pitch stages

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Problem definition (5%):** | **The extent to which the applicant has a clear understanding of the challenge identified.** |
| **Customer/user definition (5%):** | **The extent to which the applicant has identified the appropriate customers and users. The extent to which the applicant has undertaken customer discovery.** |
| **Innovation (35%):** | **The extent to which the proposed solution is innovative and differs from existing solutions.** |
| **Feasibility (15%):** | **The extent to which the proposed solution is feasible having regard to the technical aspects of the project, timelines, partnerships, financial resources, etc** |
| **Capabilities (15%):** | **The extent to which the team has the requisite expertise to develop and/or implement the proposed solution. In the case of an individual applicant, this refers to the extent to which the individual has the requisite expertise to develop and/or implement the proposed solution.** |
| **Sustainability (10%):** | **The extent to which the team has developed a sustainability plan for their proposed solution.** |
| **Potential impact (10%):** | **The extent to which the proposed solution will make an impact to society.** |
| **Quality of the submission/presentation (5%)** | |

What is in it for me?

* A maximum of ten (10) Innovative projects will be eligible for:
  + Maximum of R 100 k seed funding per project. ***Terms and Conditions apply!!!***
  + Access to a dedicated mentor to assist with development and implementation of the idea/concept.
  + Access to pre-incubation services where available.
  + Access to a commercialisation specialist, IP specialist and product design professional where applicable.
  + Prototyping.
  + Assistance with marketing the idea/concept.
  + Opportunity for Exchange exposure.

Enquiries may be directed to: innovation@unisa.ac.za