



# Unisa Innovation Challenge

## 2019 Call for Applications

### WHAT'S YOUR BRIGHT IDEA?

*Do you have a bright, innovative idea? If yes, then the Innovation Challenge is for you.  
Students are invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges*

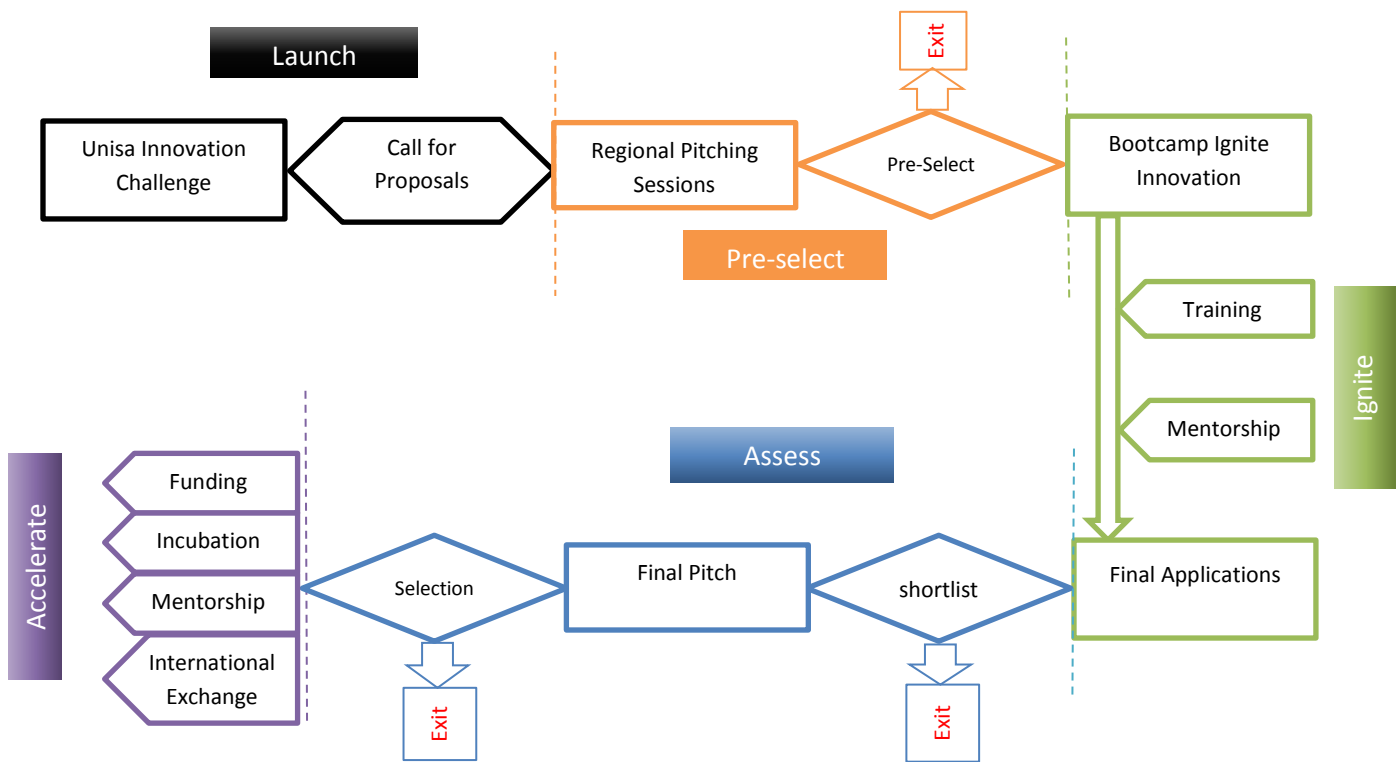
**Closing date: 15 June 2019**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- The Unisa Innovation Challenge is open to all registered Unisa students.
- The Innovative idea should be targeted at addressing an identified 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.



### Application And Assessment Process



#### Launch

- The call for proposals will go out at the end of February each year.

#### Preselect

- All interested students or groups of students wishing to enter their innovative idea/business concept as part of the Unisa Innovation Challenge are required to pitch their innovative idea/business concept before a panel of experts.
- Pitching sessions will be organised in most of the Unisa centres. For a pitching session near you, check the notice boards.
- Students wishing to pitch an idea/concept must RSVP to [innovation@unisa.ac.za](mailto:innovation@unisa.ac.za) and include the following: Name, title of pitch, your cellphone number and Unisa office near you;
- Prepare a 5 to 7-minute PowerPoint presentation



- The Pitching Panel will score all pitches based on the following criteria:
  - **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.

#### Ignite Boot Camp

- The best ideas/concepts will proceed to the next phase.
- All students whose ideas/concepts have been selected will be required to attend a 2.5-day Boot Camp on Innovation.
- At the end of the Boot Camp, it is envisaged that students will leave with an advanced draft of their Unisa Innovation Challenge proposal.
- Students may be allocated a mentor.
- Students will have until 15 June 2019 to submit their final applications. No late applications will be accepted.

#### Assessment

- All complete applications received will be reviewed by an Innovation Challenge Selection Committee.
- The mandate of the committee is to review all applications and shortlist those applications it thinks have merit.
- Complete applications will be assessed by the IC Selection Committee using the following criteria:
  - **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
- Team (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
- Sustainability (10%): The extent to which the team has developed a sustainability plan for their proposed solution.
- A maximum of 20 ideas/concepts can be shortlisted.
- Students whose ideas/concepts have been shortlisted will be invited to present to an external panel of judges for a final assessment. The final presentation will take place during the 2019 Annual Unisa Student Research and Innovation Showcase from 4-6 September 2019.
- The winners will be selected and announced during the Awards Ceremony at the end of the student Showcase.

#### Accelerate

- A maximum of 10 projects can be supported.
- Each project will receive the following financial and non-financial support:
  - R 100 000 per project which will be used towards the development of the concept or idea. Additional funding may be made available depending on progress and compliance with all conditions of grant. The funding will be dispensed in tranches based on progress.
  - Access to a dedicated mentor to assist with development and implementation of the idea/concept.
  - Access to incubation services where available
  - Access to a commercialisation specialist, IP specialist and product design professional.
  - Assistance with marketing the idea/concept
  - Opportunity to participate in an international student exchange.



### **Regional pitching sessions and workshop**

The DITTC is organising pitching sessions in various regions. Kindly consult the schedule of regional visits at the service centre closest to you.

Enquiries may be directed to:

**Ms. Hlumela Kunene:** [kunendq@unisa.ac.za](mailto:kunendq@unisa.ac.za) (012 429 8549)

**Ms. Ntanganedzeni Muanalo:** [muanan@unisa.ac.za](mailto:muanan@unisa.ac.za) (012 429 3767)



## 2019 Innovation Challenge Visits March and April 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			28	1 March	2	3
4	5		7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Science Campus Ekurhuleni	20 Vaal Agency Sunnyside Campus	21	22 Sunnyside Campus	23 Cape Town Campus	24
25	26 Pietermaritzburg	27 Durban Hub	28 Richards bay Agency	29	30	31
1 April	2 Rustenburg Hub Kimberly Agency New Castle Agency	3 Bloemfontein	4 Nelspruit Hub	5 Mafikeng Agency Wild Coast	6	7



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8	9 Middleburg Potchefstroom	10	11	12	13	14
15 Mthatha Polokwane Hub	16 East London Hub Giyani	17 Port Elizabeth Agency Makhado	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					