

KICK START: 3-MINUTE PITCHING COMPETITION

FAQ'S Document
(Frequently Asked Questions)



Competition Questions

How do I enter the competition?

To enter this competition, please firstly check the eligibility section of our website to ensure that you are eligible to enter. You can then enter our competition by clicking on the apply button located on our webpage and filling out the application form.

Who can enter the 3-minute Pitching competition?

Applicants who are a current student, UWS staff member or a recent graduate (graduated within 2 years) from the University of the West of Scotland are eligible to compete. We encourage all students from any level, campus or school to compete - this competition is not just for business students!

Can you enter the competition as a team?

Unfortunately you cannot enter this competition as part of a team, and we only accept individual applications for the 3-minute pitching competition.

Do I need to present a live pitch?

For this competition you will be required to present a live pitch/presentation. Our event may be held in person at one of our UWS Campuses, or online. Either way - you will be expected to present your business idea in-front of our judging panel and audience. Please ensure that you read the criteria for all required presentations.

I have a question about the application process, who would I contact?

We will be holding drop-in sessions throughout October, this will allow you to ask any questions that you may have about the competition, pitching or application process. You can also get in touch with us directly via email at [**kickstart@uws.ac.uk**](mailto:kickstart@uws.ac.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

How do I know if I am eligible to enter this competition?

If you are unsure whether you are eligible you can check out the information via our website, and by downloading our competition Terms and Conditions document. Please ensure that you read over the information carefully, as we have the right to refuse your application if you are not eligible for the competition.

Can I use cards or notes during my presentation?

Yes, cards and/or speech notes are acceptable, however this option may detract from the delivery of your presentation and therefore we do not recommend it.

What is allowed on my 3-minute business idea slide?

One single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. In preparing the slide, remember that 'less is more'. It does not have to include text. Visual cues are very effective in assisting the presenter's explanation of their research (No slide transitions, animations, sound or 'movement' is permitted).

I don't want to start up a business but I have a great business idea, can I still enter?

Yes! You can enter the competition whether you wish to take your idea further or not. Although we love the idea of helping early start entrepreneurs we equally encourage applicants with great, innovative ideas enter our competition and compete for prizes. If you change your mind about starting up your business then we can provide you with the support to do so.

I have submitted my application but I want to change something, can I do this?

If you have submitted your application over before the deadline date, then you can resubmit another version before the deadline cut off. Please ensure that you make us aware of the changes by contacting us at kickstart@uws.ac.uk, so that we can update your application on our side. You will **not be allowed** to resubmit an application after the deadline date, so please keep this in mind.

I don't feel confident doing a pitch, do I need to do this?

The pitches are required as part of the competition and in order to participate in this competition you must complete a 3-minute pitch. For our London students/staff members, if you are unable to attend our event in person - then you will be required to present a live pitch online on the day.

What prizes can I win if I get to the final stage of the competition?

We will have a great range of prizes for our participants including cash prizes, awards, incubator spaces (optional), business support, and funding opportunities.

Where do I submit my application?

Please click on the apply now button on our competition webpage, once you have completed all sections of the application, click submit which will automatically send your application to our team. If you are unsure whether we have received your application then you can contact our team at **kickstart@uws.ac.uk**.

Once I have submitted my application, do I need to do anything else?

Once you have submitted your application, you can sit back and relax until our team get back to you. All successful applicants will then be asked to start preparing their presentation for their live pitches. We recommend that you start working on your presentations as soon as possible to give yourself time to prepare for the event.

If I don't win the competition this year, can I apply for the next Kick Start competition with my business idea?

Yes, if you haven't won our competition this year then do not worry, there will be other opportunities to submit your business idea again. See this competition as a learning opportunity and aim to work on your idea, developing it for the next competition round. You can enter our competitions with the same idea x3 times (if you are still a student, staff or recent graduate of UWS), but please ensure that you make progress with your idea, and don't just submit the same application.

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