

# Future Founders Challenge 2026

*Rules & Regulations for Participation*

---

## Participation Criteria

- Open to high school students (Grades 9–12).
- Teams must comprise 2–3 students. Multiple teams can be nominated.
- Each team must have a project name and business idea at the time of nomination.
- 01 school faculty to accompany their student teams if the team is selected for the finale.
- 100% attendance in all online workshops is mandatory for all shortlisted teams after nominations.

## Presentation Rules (Finale at UPES)

- Selected teams for the final must mandatorily submit their pitch deck at least 5 days before the event.
- Any other required materials (e.g., product prototypes) should be brought by the selected teams at their own expense and liability.
- Judges will select the winning teams based on the Judging Criteria prescribed hereinafter.
- Final pitch duration: 5 minutes with 3-minute Q&A by judges.

Broad Judging Criteria:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Business Viability and Feasibility
- Presentation Quality and Communication
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Responsiveness to Questions

## Dress Code for Finale

- Formal attire required – school uniforms are not allowed.
- Boys: Formal shirt and trousers with closed-toe shoes.
- Girls: Formal shirt/trousers/skirt or equivalent formal attire.

## Code of Conduct

- Maintain discipline and punctuality at all times on campus.
- Respect judges, mentors, and fellow participants.
- Unruly behavior may lead to disqualification.

## Awards & Prizes

Main Awards:

- National Level: Best Startup Team (Winner) and 1st Runner-up
- Zonal Level: Best Startup Team (Winner) and 1st Runner-up in each zone

Special Awards (Certificates & Mementos):

- Best CEO

- Best COO
- Best CFO
- Best CMO
- Best Presentation
- Best Prototype
- Best Technology Idea
- Best Sustainability Idea
- Travel to and from UPES Campus for the finale to be arranged by self (students)/participating schools.
- Students and teachers are expected to follow all safety guidelines provided by the event organizers during their time on the UPES campus.
- By participating, teams grant the event organizers a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to use their names, photographs, and videos for promotional purposes related to this event and its related activities.
- The collection of student details through school nominations, including email IDs and phone numbers, is solely for the purpose of enabling post-nomination communication, engagement, and operational coordination related to the event, in compliance with applicable data privacy norms and with the school's approval for such usage.

---

\*UPES reserves the right to change, modify, or cancel any part of the event structure or rules without prior notice. Selection is subject to UPES's discretion and the university's decision shall be final and binding on all matters related to the challenge.