

UPES Future Founders Challenge (FFC) 2026 – Complete Process & Timeline Guide

This document provides a complete overview of the UPES Future Founders Challenge (FFC) 2026, including the important dates, workshop schedule, pitch deck submission process, shortlisting process, and Grand Finale details.

Important Dates

Activity	Date & Time
Last Date to Register	31 August 2026
First Webinar	8 September 2026 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Second Webinar	15 September 2026 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Pitch Deck Submission Deadline	22 September 2026
Shortlisted Teams Announcement	1 October 2026
Grand Finale @ UPES Campus	26–27 October 2026

1. Online Workshop Series

After registration, participants will attend two online workshop sessions designed to help students validate, structure, and present their startup ideas effectively.

First Webinar – 8 September 2026 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

- Know Your Numbers: Mastering Unit Economics
- The Startup Blueprint: Mastering the Lean Canvas

Second Webinar – 15 September 2026 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

- How to Pitch Like a Founder: From Story to Funding

Collectively, these sessions will cover Unit Economics, Lean Canvas / Business Model Development, and the Art of Pitching, providing participants with the essential knowledge required to develop, structure, and present their startup ideas effectively.

2. Pitch Deck Submission

During the second and final online workshop, the Runway team will share the prescribed Pitch Deck Template with all participating teams.

All teams will be required to prepare their final pitch deck using the given template and submit it by 22 September 2026. Following the submission deadline, the Runway team will evaluate all submitted pitch decks and shortlist the top-performing teams.

3. Shortlisted Teams Announcement

Announcement Date: 1 October 2026. The shortlisted teams will proceed to the next stage of the competition and receive further instructions regarding the Grand Finale round.

4. Grand Finale

Grand Finale Dates: 26–27 October 2026

Venue: UPES Campus, Dehradun

The shortlisted teams will present their startup ideas before a jury panel comprising mentors, industry experts, and startup ecosystem leaders during the final competition round at the UPES Campus.

Quick Process Overview

1. Register for FFC 2026
2. Attend Webinar 1 – Unit Economics & Lean Canvas
3. Attend Webinar 2 – Pitching & Funding Storytelling
4. Receive the official Pitch Deck Template from the Runway team
5. Prepare and submit the pitch deck by 22 September 2026
6. Wait for the shortlist announcement on 1 October 2026
7. Present your startup idea at the UPES Campus Grand Finale on 26–27 October 2026

Need Help?

For any queries related to FFC 2026, please reach out to us at futurefounders@ddn.upes.ac.in or contact:

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