Student Entrepreneur Competition Overview

Eligibility:

- A full-time undergraduate and/or graduate student at a Canadian university or college for the current academic year. Students must be enrolled full-time in at least two of three semesters between May 2026 and April 2027 to be eligible for the competition.
- A founder and have at least 25% ownership of the company with no other individual or group with greater ownership and must be the individual primarily responsible for the business' operation.
- Have not been a previous National Champion of this competition or competed in the Final Round of the Student Entrepreneur National Competition in the previous school year.

Nominations:

- All student entrepreneurs must be nominated or self-nominated via this form.
- Nominations are now open until **December 4, at 11:59 PM (EST)**

Applications:

- Use the application link sent by Enactus Canada after nomination.
- Use this word template to support your application. Drafts cannot be saved in the application form.
- Applications must be submitted online.
- **Application Deadline: January 10, 2027, at 11:59 PM (EST)**

What you will need to provide:

- **Founder profile:** You and your role in the business.
- **Business overview:** Problem, solution, customers, market, traction, and growth plan.
- **Proof of full-time enrollment:** Documentation from your institution (see eligibility details).

Competition and Judging Details

Judging Criteria:

- **Entrepreneurial Spirit (10 points):** Perseverance, integrity, leadership, and self-awareness as a founder.
- **Sound Business Model (10 points):** Clear problem–solution fit, market understanding, defensibility, and measurable value.
- **Traction (20 points):** Evidence of progress—revenue, users, pilots, partnerships, pipeline, or other validated milestones.
- **Scalability (10 points):** Realistic path to growth (or credible exit), resources and strategy to reach the next stage.

Review full judging criteria.

Finalist Selection Process:

- Nominees are asked to submit a written application outlining their company and their experience as an entrepreneur.
- Judges review applications and independently rank their top thirty (30) applications.
- A separate panel of judges will independently select their top twelve (12) applicants to be named finalists in the Student Entrepreneur National Competition.

Digital Round of Competition:

- These twelve (12) finalists will then compete in a digital round of competition where they will submit a recorded video pitch, up to 5 minutes in length, about their business to supplement their application form.
- Judges will independently rank according to the judging criteria and will select three (3) finalists who will move on to the live in-person Final Round of Competition.

Final Round of Competition:

- The three (3) finalists will present their ventures to a panel of top executives and industry leaders at the Enactus Canada National Exposition taking place **April 27-30, 2027,** in Toronto, Ontario.

Confidentiality and Code of Conduct

All information submitted in the application will only be reviewed by Enactus Canada staff and independent judges. All judges sign confidentiality agreements before participating in the evaluation process.

All participants must abide by the **Enactus Canada Code of Conduct** and sign the **Truth of Information** declaration included in the application form. These ensure the ethical and professional integrity of all Enactus Canada programs and competitions.

Disclaimer: Enactus Canada reserves the right to adjust prize amounts or competition structure without notice.

Prizes

Three (3) finalists will receive complimentary lodging and travel (from within Canada) to attend the Enactus Canada National Exposition

- The Student Entrepreneur National Champion (1st) will receive a **$10,000 cash prize**
- The Student Entrepreneur National Runner-Up (2nd) will receive a **$4,000 cash prize**
- The Student Entrepreneur National Second Runner-Up (3rd) will receive a **$2,000 cash prize**

Dates and Deadlines

Please see the 2026–2027 timeline below.

- **December 4, 2026 at 11:59 PM (ET)** – All nominations must be received.
- **January 10, 2026 at 11:59 PM (ET)** – All applications forms and supporting documents must be submitted.
- **January 13, 2027** – Top 30 confirmed.
- **January 28, 2027**– Top 12 Finalist Announcement – The top twelve (12) student entrepreneurs will be notified. All student entrepreneurs will be notified at this stage.
- **February 10, 2027** – Finalist Video Pitch Due – The top twelve (12) will submit a video pitch of up to 5-minutes in length.
- **February 22, 2027**– Top 3 Finalist confirmed – The top three (3) student entrepreneurs will be notified. All top 12 finalists will be notified at this stage.
- **March 25, 2027** – Official Top 3 Finalist Announcement – Official announcement will be released on Enactus Canada's social media channels.

- **April 6, 2027**– Online Training – Competition Preparation training for the top three (3) finalists only.
- **April 26, 2027** – Top 3 Written report submission.
- **April 27–30, 2027** – Final Round of Competition – Held at the Enactus Canada National Exposition in Toronto, Ontario. Exact presentation times to be confirmed.

For questions or more information, please contact: Enactus Canada Programs Team - programs@enactus.ca