

U21 PwC Innovation Challenge 2021

Student handbook

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Competition information

About the challenge

U21 member institutions are invited to take part in the U21 PwC Innovation Challenge. The challenge itself will enable U21 students to respond to situations faced by the workforce of the future, to which they can apply their current knowledge and experience. Universitas 21 and PwC, two globally-focused organisations, are working together to create mutually beneficial links between U21's global student groups and PwC's top clients across its International network of companies. This unique partnership aims to give U21 students early exposure to global work opportunities, and the opportunity to communicate their specialist knowledge, skills and talents to potential employers. PwC's client companies will benefit from the opportunity of an early introduction to the best emerging talent from top-class universities around the world

Who can take part?

Any registered **graduate student** in one of U21's member universities (this includes students from taught masters programmes, research masters programmes and PhDs). It will be the responsibility of each U21 university to check the registration status of any student that they send forward as a finalist for adjudication. Students on joint PhDs between two U21 members will be eligible to apply.

NOTE: As some of the prizes may involve time in a company undertaking training, internships etc., students who enter the competition should ensure that they are in a position to take up any such opportunities within a reasonable time period.

How to enter

The University of Auckland selection panel will select the top four local entries to be put forward to the regional competition.

1. Prepare and film your presentation according to the rules for submission
2. Submit your video to Deborah McAllister Universitas21@auckland.ac.nz by **12noon Tuesday 1 June 2021**. If your file is too large to be sent via email, please use the University's [Web DropOff Box](#).
3. The local selection panel will make a decision by **Friday 11 June 2021**
4. The selected University of Auckland finalists will then be invited to submit their video to U21 for regional judging by **Friday 2 July 2021**

Find competition rules and prizes online at [U21 PwC Innovation Challenge](#).

Competition preparation

Preparing for the competition

Preparation for this competition is key. Here are a few tips on how to prepare for the competition:

- **Research the challenge.** You want to demonstrate your ability to present a well-rounded argument. It's your chance to show them how much you know.
- **Consider what to include in your slide** (if using). There is nothing worse than having to stare at a redundant slide during a presentation - make sure you make it work for you!
- **Learn your 'script'.** It is better to have a structure in mind for what you're going to say. Writing it down will save you time and effort when it comes around to filming.
- **Practise!** Practise your script so that you become fluent - you are being judged on your ability to articulate your opinion and knowledge.
- **Think about how you want to present yourself.** First impressions count, make sure that you're dressed appropriately.
- **Watch the previous winning videos.** Get an idea of what is expected.

Previous winner videos

- [Humberto Jimenez Martinez](#) – Winner of the Innovation Challenge 2018-19
- [Mac Montana](#) – Winner 2018-19
- [Sarah Hashmi](#) – Winner 2019-19
- [Daniel Student](#) – Winner 2019-20
- [James Tait](#) – Winner 2019-20
- [Christopher Girardi](#) – Winner 2019-20

What are the judges looking for?

At every level of the competition you will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below. Please note that each criterion is equally weighted.

Comprehension and Content

- Did the candidate have a logical approach to answering the question? - i.e. familiarity with the background material, a set of key considerations.
- Did the candidate clearly explain their point of view?
- Did the candidate articulate the conclusions and recommendations clearly?
- Did the candidate provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the candidate spend adequate time on each element of their presentation – or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement and Communication

- Did the presentation make you want to know more from this candidate and potentially employ them?
- Did the candidate convey enthusiasm for the challenge and genuine interest in the problem?
- Did the candidate capture and maintain your attention? (sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, confident stance)

Got questions? Contact Deborah McAllister at universitas21@auckland.ac.nz.