

Terms and Conditions for 'What's Your Big Idea?' Competition 2024-25

1. Eligibility

1.1. Contestants must fall into at least one of the following categories:

- a) Current Middlesex University London student
- b) Middlesex University London alumni (graduated within the last 2 years)
- c) Current Barnet and Southgate College student
- d) London Borough of Barnet resident

1.2. All contestants must be eligible to work in the UK.

1.3. All entrants must be at least 17 years old.

1.4. If submitting an entry as an existing Limited Company (LTD) or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), the business must be officially registered with Companies House on or after 19 May 2023 and must not exceed £40,000 in annual revenue. Participants may be required to provide supporting evidence upon request. Failure to provide satisfactory proof or submission of false information will result in immediate disqualification from the programme.

1.5. If entering as a Sole Trader or Freelancer, your annual revenue must not exceed £40,000. Participants may be required to provide supporting evidence upon request. Failure to provide satisfactory proof or submission of false information will result in immediate disqualification from the programme.

1.6. Any individual or team that has made it to the final stage of previous editions of the Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition or MDXcelerator are not eligible to re-enter the same idea.

1.7. Individuals or teams without a registered business, including those with no prior entrepreneurial experience, are welcome to enter. Participants must demonstrate a clear idea they wish to develop as part of the programme. No prior business registration or trading history is required.

2. Group Submissions

2.1. Contestants may enter individually or as part of a group. If you are entering as a group, all members must be eligible to take part.

2.2. If submitting as a group, all members must be prepared to participate in the application process and must agree to the entry. Each group must designate one primary contact.

3. Submission Deadlines

3.1. All entries must be submitted by the deadline specified for each stage. Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.

3.2. No responsibility will be accepted for entries that are delayed or not received for any reason, including technical errors or failures.

3.3. No corrections or modifications will be accepted after the submission deadline.

4. Judging and Selection Criteria

4.1. Entries will be judged based on criteria such as innovation, feasibility, potential impact, and scalability.

4.2. The judging panel will consist of industry experts, Middlesex University academics, and external stakeholders. Judging decisions are final and not subject to appeal. No correspondence regarding the judges' decisions will be entered into.

4.3. Scoring and assessment sheets and judging notes are strictly confidential and cannot be shared with participants.

4.4. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any entry that they believe violates the letter or spirit of the competition.

5. Prizes

5.1. Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel. The list of prizes will be provided on the competition website.

5.2. Prize money will be paid by bank transfer to the winning contestants. No equity will be taken by the competition organisers, judges, or facilitators.

5.3. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash or other alternatives.

5.4. For group entries, any awarded prize will be transferred to a registered business account or to a designated team member, as agreed upon by the group. The team is solely responsible for managing the distribution of funds or their investment in the business. The programme organisers accept no responsibility for disputes arising from the allocation or use of the prize.

6. Intellectual Property

6.1. Contestants retain full ownership of any intellectual property (IP) associated with their idea or business.

6.2. All entrants are required to ensure that they own, or have sufficient permission to use, any IP that is or will be used by the business or as part of the business idea. Entrants will be responsible for any consequences or losses arising from the use of intellectual property without permission.

6.3. The competition organisers, Middlesex University, London Borough of Barnet, Barnet and Southgate College, Hammerson PLC, and Santander Universities will not accept responsibility for any such consequences or losses.

6.4. By submitting an entry, participants grant the competition organisers the right to use their submission, name, and likeness for promotional purposes, including media coverage, reports, and websites.

7. Media and Marketing

7.1. By taking part in the competition, entrants agree to participate in any associated media activities and provide their consent for the use of marketing materials, including but not limited to photographs, interviews, and videos obtained during the competition.

7.2. The organising team will use reasonable efforts to respect and protect clearly labelled confidential information submitted by entrants. However, the organisers cannot guarantee confidentiality and will not be responsible for any confidential information that is inadvertently disclosed.

8. Confidentiality and Email Disclaimer

8.1. Entrants should exercise discretion when submitting confidential information. While the organisers will make reasonable efforts to protect confidential information, they cannot guarantee full confidentiality.

8.2. Please note that email transmissions are not guaranteed to be secure. By using email for communication, entrants waive any claim for inadvertently breaching confidentiality.

9. Disqualification and Withdrawal

9.1. The competition organisers reserve the right to withdraw any entry found to be in breach of any terms and conditions, or which violates the spirit of the competition.

9.2. Plagiarised entries or submissions found to contain false information will result in immediate disqualification.

9.3. The competition organisers reserve the right to withdraw or amend the competition at any time due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

10. Changes to Programme

10.1. The competition organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, location, timing, and speakers without prior notice. Any necessary adjustments will be communicated to participants in a timely manner.

11. Liability

11.1. The competition organisers shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, or consequential loss or damage arising out of or in connection with the competition or any prize provided as part of the competition.

11.2. Contestants agree to indemnify the organisers against all liabilities, claims, actions, proceedings, and losses that may arise from their participation in the competition.

12. Governing Law

12.1. These terms and conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

12.2. Any disputes arising from this competition will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

13. Agreement and Acceptance

13.1. By participating in the competition, entrants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.

14. Data Protection and Privacy

14.1. By entering the competition, participants consent to the collection, storage, and processing of their personal data by the competition organisers for purposes directly related to the administration, promotion, and operation of the competition.

14.2. Personal data collected includes, but is not limited to, contact information, eligibility verification, and information relevant to judging entries.

14.3. Personal data will be stored securely in compliance with applicable data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

14.4. Participants' data may be shared with members of the judging panel and relevant competition partners solely for purposes connected to the competition, and will not be shared with any third parties for unrelated purposes without the entrant's explicit consent.

14.5. Personal data will be retained only as long as necessary for the competition's purposes or as required by law.

14.6. Participants may request access to, correction of, or deletion of their personal data by contacting bigidea@mdx.ac.uk.