

Privacy Notice: Scottish & United Arab Emirates Applicants

Background & Challenge Partners

The #DigInventors Challenge is a Scottish-based competition that challenges young people to identify and research health and wellbeing challenges and develop ideas that could be transformed into potential digital solutions.

The Challenge is delivered by the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre (“DHI”), which is hosted by the University of Strathclyde, in partnership with (but not limited to):

1. All In for Glasgow 2026
2. Education Scotland
3. SSERC
4. Skills Development Scotland
5. Developing Young Workforce
6. SmartSTEMs
7. Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland)
8. dressCode
9. City of Glasgow College
10. School of Innovation and Technology at the Glasgow School of Art
11. University of Strathclyde Inspire
12. South Lanarkshire Council
13. Futurescot
14. Scottish Development International
15. Heriot Watt University Dubai
16. University of Strathclyde Business School Dubai
17. Dubai Health Authority
18. Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation
19. British High Commission Kuala Lumpur
20. Ministry of Education, Innovation & Talent Development Sarawak
21. Sarawak Research and Development Council
22. SRDC BrightsparX
23. University of Technology Sarawak
24. Sarawak Science Centre
25. Heriot Watt University Malaysia

The Challenge is currently delivered across Scotland and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and provides teaching materials to support young people to use classroom learning to solve real-world health and wellbeing challenges.

Four finalist Scottish teams will be invited to meet with the DHI at their offices in Glasgow. At the same time, four finalist UAE teams will be invited to meet representatives of Heriot-Watt University Dubai. The eight teams will participate in a **“hybrid” boot camp on Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 November 2026** (in person and via Microsoft Teams).

The eight teams will then participate in a **“hybrid” final on Monday 7 December 2026** (both in person and via Microsoft Teams). The four finalist Scottish teams will meet with the DHI at their office in Glasgow. At the same time, four finalist teams from the UAE will meet with representatives of Heriot-Watt University Dubai in Dubai. A Scottish winner and a UAE winner will then be selected and announced on **Tuesday, 8 December 2026**. Award ceremonies will take place in each respective country. In Scotland, this will be **Wednesday 9 December 2026** at the Digifest Conference, hosted at the University of Strathclyde TIC. All teams that participate in the final should attend on the day to showcase their ideas to attendees. The UAE award ceremony will be hosted by Heriot-Watt University Dubai; timings TBC.

The University of Strathclyde will be responsible for processing your personal data as a participant in the Challenge and will provide you with relevant information about how your personal data will be used (see details below).

Privacy Notice

The University of Strathclyde is a data controller under data protection legislation. This privacy notice sets out important information regarding how we will use your information and your rights under the legislation. It is important that you read this notice prior to providing your information.

For applicants based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Heriot-Watt University Dubai (HWUD) will act as a data processor for the personal data collected by the DHI and used locally. HWUD is responsible for ensuring compliance with the UAE Federal Law No. 45 of 2021 on the Protection of Personal Data (PDPL). Where personal data is shared between UAE-based and UK-based entities, appropriate safeguards will be implemented to ensure lawful cross-border data transfer.

The DHI is running the #DigilInventors Challenge 2026 competition in which teams of four (4) to six (6) young people (attending secondary school as of 2 January 2026). Each team must nominate a school or youth organisation that they represent and a responsible adult (over the age of 21) who will act as the team’s mentor during the competition. Parents of team members are not eligible to be mentors in the Challenge.

As part of the online application process, certain personal data belonging to the mentor and team members will be collected by the DHI.

The data that will be collected is:

- School/ group name and registered address
- Council areas (Scotland) or constituent emirate (UAE)
- Team name
- Mentor’s name
- Mentor’s contact information (email address)
- Each team member’s gender and school stage
- Pupil names (for finalists only)

If a team is shortlisted as a finalist during the #DigilInventors Challenge 2026 and attends the hybrid bootcamp, the hybrid final and is showcased in the award ceremony, then the DHI may use the information above and/ or capture photographs, video or audio of the mentors and team members

as outlined below. DHI will capture student names and parental permission to share this data and content, via our online consent form, which will be sent to finalists in advance of the boot camp. This information may also be shared in official press releases distributed by the DHI via our PR agency, Hot Tin Roof, and our partners, to a variety of media outlets for publicity purposes.

How we use your personal data and who we may share it with

We will use the personal data you supply in the online application process to:

- ensure that you meet the criteria for applying to the #DigilInventors Challenge 2026;
- assess your application to the #DigilInventors Challenge 2026; and
- judge your application, which will be done by employees of the DHI and other #DigilInventors Challenge partners.

If you are a member of a team which is shortlisted during the #DigilInventors Challenge 2026, a mentor, sponsor, partner, masterclass presenter, expert or judge, the DHI's internal marketing team may capture photographs, video or audio footage of you for the following purposes:

1. to promote the #DigilInventors Challenge by the DHI for the current and future challenges, such promotion may include use in the DHI's advertising and resources in relation to the #DigilInventors Challenge, including but not limited to the #DigilInventors Challenge website (www.digilinventors.com/), social media, advertising, press, film and video, radio and publications;
2. to allow Challenge partners to judge the competition entries presented by participants at the #DigilInventors Challenge bootcamp;
3. to create videos for the winners' presentation at a pre-determined formal award ceremony (the Scottish award ceremony will take place on Wednesday 9 December 2026) and to be made available via the DHI website; and
4. for use on #DigilInventors Challenge partner and sponsor organisation websites and resources for the purposes of promoting and advertising the #DigilInventors Challenge and the support provided by these partner organisations, such partners may include, but are not limited to, the partner list shared at the top of this document.

For UAE-based participants, any collection, use, or sharing of your personal data (including photographs, videos, or audio recordings) will comply with the UAE PDPL. Where media content is involved, explicit, written parental consent will be obtained for any participant under the age of 18. Consent will be collected via a separate, clear media release form that outlines the intended use, platforms where it will be used, and duration of use. Parents or legal guardians will have the right to refuse without prejudice, and participants will not be filmed or photographed in such cases.

Where personal data (including media content) is transferred to or accessed by entities outside the UAE (including the UK), this will be done in accordance with Articles 22–24 of the PDPL. This may include reliance on data transfer agreements, appropriate organisational safeguards, or obtaining specific parental consent for international sharing.

Legal basis for processing

Under UK data protection legislation, we are required to identify our legal basis for processing. For the online application process the legal basis for processing is the legitimate interests of the University of Strathclyde as data controller to enable the DHI to receive, assess and judge applications to the #DigiInventors Challenge 2026.

For the use of photographs, video or audio footage of Scottish participants that may be captured during your participation in the #DigiInventors Challenge 2026, we will seek consent directly from you (if over 16) or a parent/guardian (if under 16).

Under UAE law, the legal bases for processing personal data include obtaining clear consent from the data subject (or their parent/guardian if under 18), the necessity of processing for the performance of a contract, and compliance with legal obligations. Where consent is required (e.g. for media use), it will be obtained in advance and may be withdrawn at any time.

Retention Period

We will retain your details relating to:

- the application process for a period of five (5) years following the end of the application process at which point they will be deleted from the University's files; and
- any photographs, video or audio footage of you which is captured or held by the University of Strathclyde will generally be held for a period of five (5) years from the #DigiInventors Challenge boot camp.

There may be exceptions where some of them are retained and used for a longer period of time.

For UAE participants, any retention of personal data will follow UAE PDPL requirements and local partner policies. You may request deletion or restriction of your personal data at any time in accordance with your rights under UAE law.

Your Rights*

You have the right to:

- find out what personal data we process about you and obtain a copy of the data, free of charge;
- ask us to correct inaccurate or incomplete data;
- withdraw consent to process your personal data at any time, if you were asked for and provided consent (and where no other lawful basis for processing applies);
- restrict the processing of your personal data in certain ways;
- object to the way we are using your data;
- request that we erase your information; and
- obtain a portable copy of personal data you have given to us in a commonly used electronic format.

*Please note: the applicability of these rights depends on the legal basis for processing and may not apply in all circumstances.

To exercise any of these rights, please contact dataprotection@strath.ac.uk.

These rights apply under both UK GDPR and UAE PDPL. If you are a UAE-based participant or parent/guardian, you may exercise your rights under the PDPL by contacting Heriot-Watt University at infogov@hw.ac.uk.

Right to Complain

If you have any concerns/ issues with the way the University has processed your personal data, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@strath.ac.uk. You also have the right to lodge a complaint against the University regarding data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>).

UAE-based participants may raise concerns with Heriot-Watt University's Data Protection Officer at infogov@hw.ac.uk, or contact the UAE Data Office via its website.

This privacy notice applies to all participants of the DigilInventors Challenge 2026 and should be read in conjunction with any additional guidance provided by local partner organisations.