

#DigilInventors Challenge 2026 Rules

The #DigilInventors Challenge is run by the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre (“DHI”), which is an Innovation Centre hosted by the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. Any personal data you provide to us in an application to the Challenge will be used only in accordance with the associated privacy notice.

Please ensure that you have read all these Rules carefully before submitting an application to the Challenge.

By submitting an application to the Challenge, entrants accept the Rules in their entirety and failure to comply with any or all the Rules may result in the disqualification of individual entrants, teams or entries.

General conditions

- Teams will consist of a maximum of six (6) young people
- Team members attending secondary school/ college as of August 2026 are eligible to participate in the Challenge
- Each team must nominate a school, college or youth organisation that they represent
- Each team must also nominate a responsible adult (over the age of 21) who will act as the team’s mentor and point of contact during the Challenge process
- Parents of team members are not eligible to be mentors in the Challenge
- Each team is invited to submit ideas that use digital technology to improve a health and/ or wellbeing challenge as outlined in the relevant Challenge questions for this year

Deadlines, judging of applications and challenge stages

- Applications are submitted via our online application form. A Word document version of the form details is available so that responses can be prepared and reviewed in advance to speed up your idea submission. Once you start your submission, there is no way to save and return to it, so we recommend using a Word document to capture all information, which you can then copy and paste in one go.
 - Criteria 1 – 400-word limit
 - Criteria 2 – 400-word limit
 - Criteria 3 – 400-word limit + 1 image upload of your prototype, wireframe, etc.
 - Image must be uploaded as a JPG or PDF
 - Criteria 4 – 1-minute elevator video pitch of your idea
 - The video may be taken on a handheld mobile recording device, or better. The video should be an overview of your idea presented by one or more team members
 - Your video must be uploaded as an unlisted YouTube video. **The time limit for videos is 1 minute maximum.** Any video content beyond 1 minute will

not be viewed. Full instructions on how to upload your video are available on the Word document template

- Teams may withdraw entries from the competition by notification from the team's mentor sent via email to info@digiiinventors.com
- The online application process will open:
 - **Scotland at 0900 on Monday 17 August 2026**
 - **UAE at 0900 on Monday 24 August 2026**
- The deadline for submissions is **2359 on Friday 9 October 2026**
- As this is a digital competition, all entries must be submitted online. No postal entries shall be accepted
- Submissions cannot be returned, so please ensure that you retain at least one copy of your entry
- Amendments and/ or substitutions cannot be made to entries after they have been submitted
- Acceptance of entries shall be confirmed by email from the #DigilInventors Challenge upon receipt of your confirmed entry
- The #DigilInventors Challenge will announce all successful shortlisted teams on **Monday 26 October 2026**, via our LinkedIn and Instagram channels
 - All mentors will receive an email confirming whether their team has been shortlisted for the boot camp and the final
- Shortlisted teams will join us for the boot camp on:
 - **Wednesday 11 November 2026 (1200-1500 UK time/ 1600-1900 UAE time)**
 - **Thursday 12 November 2026 (1200-1500 UK time/ 1600-1900 UAE time)**
 - Attendance is compulsory on both days of boot camp, as we have organised speakers and mentors to participate. By applying to the competition, entrants confirm that they will attend both days. Failure to attend will result in disqualification from the competition, and you will not be able to participate in the final
- The #DigilInventors Challenge final will take place in your region on **Monday 7 December 2026 (1200-1530 UK time/ 1600-1930 UAE time)**
 - Students will be asked to attend a relevant venue in their country and present virtually to a panel of judges
- The winning Scottish and UAE teams will be selected following the hybrid final
- The #DigilInventors Challenge will announce the Scottish and UAE winners on **Tuesday 8 December 2026**
- Separate #DigilInventors Challenge Award Ceremonies will take place between December 2026 and February 2027, where winning teams will receive their prizes and trophies
 - Scotland – **Wednesday 9 December 2026** at the University of Strathclyde TIC – All participating teams are expected to attend this event and showcase their ideas to the conference attendees between 1000-1330 – please bring presentations, props, etc., and be willing to speak to interested parties from Scottish Government, health boards, industry and academia.
 - UAE - TBC with local delivery partner

Eligibility

- Entries must be entirely the work of the team, and by submitting your entry each member of the team confirms that the work is their own. Any evidence to the contrary will result in immediate disqualification
- Entries must never have been published on any website, blog or online forum, nor have won or been placed (i.e. in 2nd, 3rd runner-up etc.) in any other competition
- If your entry has been longlisted or shortlisted in other competitions and provided it has not won a prize or been published, then it is eligible for the Challenge
- Simultaneous submissions are allowed but will become ineligible should they win a prize or be published by a different competition prior to the prize-giving date of the Challenge. Any change in these circumstances must be advised to the DHI as soon as the team becomes aware

Fees

There is no charge for entering the competition

Results

- The teams shortlisted for the virtual boot camp may be posted on the competition website and promoted via social media by early November 2026
- A press release will be created to announce our winners and runners-up and may be shared with local, national and international media agencies via our PR Agency and partners

Intellectual property

Any intellectual property rights developed as part of a Challenge application shall be owned by the individual(s) who created such intellectual property rights. The DHI reserves the right to publish non-confidential details of a winning entry on its website (as well as the other shortlisted entries). The winning teams will be expected to work with the Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre and its partners to support the future promotion of the #DigiInventors Challenge.

In certain circumstances, the DHI may consider the technology, which forms the basis of a Challenge application, to be worthy of further development and possibly commercialisation. Where this is the case, the DHI may request that the intellectual property rights in such technology be assigned to a commercialisation partner identified by the DHI, e.g. the University of Strathclyde, by the members of the relevant team. The commercialisation partner would then seek to commercialise the technology on behalf of the team, most likely through licensing to third-party companies. Any revenues generated from the commercialisation of the technology would be shared with the creators, as laid out in a revenue-sharing agreement agreed at the time of assignment.

Should the commercialisation of a technology prove to be unsuccessful after a period of two (2) years, upon request, the commercialisation partner can arrange for the intellectual property rights to be assigned back to the creators.

Judging

- The judges' decision is final, and no individual correspondence can be entered into between judges and applicants
- Judges are unable to comment on individual entries
- Judging is fair and unbiased
- The Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre reserves the right to change the panel of judges without notice

Prizes

- Everyone who participates and applies will receive a #DigiInventors Challenge Certificate!
- All participants who submit an entry, can use their submission to apply for the Young STEM Leader Level 4 Auto Award (YSL4) – **Scotland only for now!**

Finalist teams will receive:

- Official #DigiInventors Challenge Finalist Certificate for each pupil
- Goodie bags to reward all team members for their fantastic effort
- All Scottish participants who are selected for bootcamp and the final can use their idea to apply for the Young STEM Leader Awards at SCQF Level 4 (Formal) (YSL4)

The winning team will receive:

- The coveted #DigiInventors Challenge Trophy for your school
- Official #DigiInventors Challenge Winner Certificate for each team member
- Goodie bags to reward all team members for their fantastic effort
- A fantastic tech prize for each team member

Winning schools can:

- Display the coveted #DigiInventors Challenge Trophy
- Earn 3 insight points per pupil for each winning student who achieves their Young STEM Leader Awards at SCQF Level 4 (Formal) (YSL4) Accreditation - **Scotland only for now!**

The Digital Health & Care Innovation Centre reserves the right to amend these rules where it is deemed necessary to do so. Any changes to the rules will be posted on the #DigiInventors Challenge website.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRY IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THE RULES

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION