

The 'I'm an Innovator' Competition

Scotland is a nation of innovative thinkers. From the television to penicillin, Scotland's inventions and discoveries have changed the world, technologically and socially.

What's next?

The Scottish Institute for Enterprise wants your ideas for businesses, social enterprises, products or services which could make a difference to how people live in Scotland. We want you to believe in yourself and the power of your ideas and you could be joining other young entrepreneurs who had an idea and made it happen.

Entries can be submitted online from **February 19th** until **April 4th 2018**. All entries must have the potential for real social impact.

Both individual or team entries will be accepted. Up to fifty entrants will be invited to a special Innovation Day event in April. They'll work on their ideas with the help of business experts and mentors and get ready for the next stage of the competition. Stage 2 judging will take place in May.

Up to twenty-five finalists will attend a special residential bootcamp in June where they will pitch to judges for cash prizes from a total prize fund of **£3000!**

Scotland has a fantastic history of innovation and ideas that have changed the world. What will you come up with?

Think outside of the box. Think differently. Be an innovator!

I'm an Innovator FAQ

What is the I'm an Innovator competition?

The 'I'm an Innovator' competition is a competition from SIE which looks for innovative ideas for businesses, social enterprises, products or services which could make a difference to how people live in Scotland. All ideas need to have potential for real social impact, which must be identified in the entry.

The ideas can be worked on by eligible individuals or teams of students/graduates in collaboration.

Does the idea have to relate to Scotland?

Yes, ideas must relate to issues or opportunities that affect people in Scotland. However, these may also apply elsewhere in the world, so the competition may just be the starting point for the ideas.



Who can enter?

All entrants must be:

- Undergraduate or postgraduate students at a Scottish University or College, OR
- Graduates at Scottish University or College who have graduated within the last two years.

Individual or joint/team entries will be accepted. Please note, SIE may restrict the number of team members who may attend competition events, depending on numbers.

What are the stages of the competition?

There are three stages to the competition.

In stage 1, up to 50 shortlisted entries will be selected from all the entries and invited to a special Innovation event on 21 April. Entries to round 1 can be submitted online from 19 February 2018 until 04 April 2018.

Submitted ideas will be evaluated and up to 50 entrants will be selected (individuals or team members) to progress to stage 2 of the competition and invited to attend a special innovation workshop.

After the innovation workshop, the 50 entrants will be invited to update their online entry for the chance to attend the exclusive residential Innovation Bootcamp and the final stage of the competition.

A Panel of judges will assess the updated application, and will select up to 25 finalists.

The 25 finalists will then attend an exclusive residential weekend bootcamp in June where they will ready their idea and make their final pitch to judges for the chance to win a cash prize!

Who will see my entry?

Your application will be kept confidential by SIE. It will not be used for purposes other than the Competition, without the prior written approval of the Entrant. Only a limited number of persons involved in the organisation of the competition, including the judging panels, will have access to the entries.

How can I protect my idea?

The ownership and protection of an idea can be very complicated. SIE can provide you with guidance on how to protect your idea and how to ensure that you are not infringing the rights of others, such as employers. You may find this guidance from Business Gateway useful. <http://www.bgateway.com/starting-up/intellectual-property/intellectual-property-the-basics/>

If you have any specific concerns, please contact info@sie.ac.uk and we will arrange for someone to advise you.

If I win, are there any conditions on how I would use the money?

No. The prize is a cash prize and you will not be asked to return it or have to spend it on your idea. It could give you options and give you an opportunity to spend time working on your idea with SIE's advisors.

What if I want to enter as part of a team?

Teams are a welcome part of the competition. SIE may introduce a maximum limit of team members who may attend activities in stage 1 and 2. This is to make sure that we can support as many ideas as possible. The competition prizes are per team/entry.

Why should I take part?

This is a great opportunity for students, asking you to blend your knowledge and skills to address issues and opportunities facing Scotland. Throughout the competition, there will be many opportunities to learn new approaches on how to use the knowledge from your studies and gain new skills. The finalists may find themselves in a position to go forward and make a difference with their idea, and may even start a company.

Entering will help you gain skills and experiences which will help you become a more employable graduate. It is as much about developing your own potential as developing the potential of your idea.

What will I get if my idea does not get taken all the way in the competition?

Entering the competition requires you to demonstrate a wide range of skills and attributes, all of them important for your future success as either an employee in an organisation or a sustainable entrepreneur. You will be able to practice creativity, innovation, problem finding and solving, team working, communications and networking skills. Getting your idea into a format for judging in the competition will help you develop presentation and abilities to demonstrate you think innovatively and across diverse perspectives. These are all skills and knowledge you need to make the most from your studies and in preparation for using your knowledge and skills after college or university.

How do I take part?

Entry is online at: www.sie.ac.uk/innovator

You don't need to fully complete your entry in one sitting as you will set a password that allows you to save and return to your entry later. However your entry must be fully completed by **5pm on 04 April 2018**.

GOOD LUCK!

Competition dates

19 Feb	I'm an Innovator competition opens for entries
04 Apr	Online entries close
21 Apr	Innovation Day workshop
04 May	Closing date for submission of video and updated entry
06-07 June	2 day residential bootcamp and final pitching to judges.

I'm an Innovator 2018 is sponsored by Marks & Clerk



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