



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
The Fowler Center for Business  
as an Agent of World Benefit

# Hult Prize at Case Western Reserve University

September 2025







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**130+**

Participating  
Countries

**200K+**

Annual  
Participants

**\$1M USD**

Annual Prize  
Funding

**Welcome to the world's largest  
student startup competition**







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**Hult Prize empowers the next  
generation of entrepreneurs to solve  
critical social and environmental  
challenges through business.**



# Hult Prize Model for Impact

We drive change through three pillars of action:



Education



Investment



Community



# \$1M to change the world

Through their annual competition, Hult Prize challenges students to launch for-profit startups that support at least one UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

One team wins \$1M USD in seed funding to bring their idea to life.







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**“If you want young people  
to change the world, you  
have to let them try.”**

**-Bertil Hult**, Hult Prize Benefactor and  
Founder of EF Education First



**HULT**  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS SCHOOL







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# How it works





## Qualifiers

(September - February)

Venture4Impact at Case  
Western Reserve  
University

15K

Teams Worldwide



**You are here**

## Nationals

(March - May)

20 In-Person Events  
Online Evaluations

1000

Teams

Qualifying teams pitch at  
their country's national  
competition

## Incubator

(June - July)

Digital Phase

60

Teams

National winners access  
world-class mentors and  
resources that help them  
validate product-market fit,  
create proof of concepts,  
develop MVP's, and set up  
go-to-market strategies.

## Accelerator

(August - Sept)

Ashridge House, UK

25

Teams

Top incubator startups  
receive a month of  
intensive mentorship with  
workshops, guidance from  
industry experts and  
opportunities to pitch to  
investors.

## Global Finals

(September)

Paris

8

Teams

Finalists pitch to an  
international panel of  
judges at the Global Finals  
for a chance to win \$1M  
USD in funding to launch  
and scale their startup.



# How to compete

Students around the world form teams and build for-profit for-good startups aligned with at least one UN SDG to create real impact.



# Form a team

- Open to **ALL CWRU students**
  - Undergrad & graduate
- Degree-seeking students who are 18+ years old by Feb 28, 2026.
- 2-4 members.
- Interdisciplinary teams encouraged
- No business background required





# Ideate

- Ensure the venture is a for-profit & for-impact business.
- Startups can be at any stage of the business at the moment of applying.
- Design a business idea that tackles a real-world issue.
- Ideas must align with at least one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





# Compete

- Submit your pitch deck
- Pitch your solution
- Qualify to go to Global



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# Timeline



1

## Qualifying Round

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- Submit a 6-slide pitch deck to Molly Egan (mle46@case.edu) & Delisa Williams (dmw207@acse.edu)

2

## Finalist Selection

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Top teams selected by initial reviewers (professors, alumni, & industry experts)

3

## Mentorship Phase

October 27<sup>th</sup> - November 10<sup>th</sup>

- Teams paired with mentors for feedback and pitch prep

4

## Final Round Pitch

November 14<sup>th</sup>

- Live 4 minute pitch & 4 minute Q&A for a judge panel

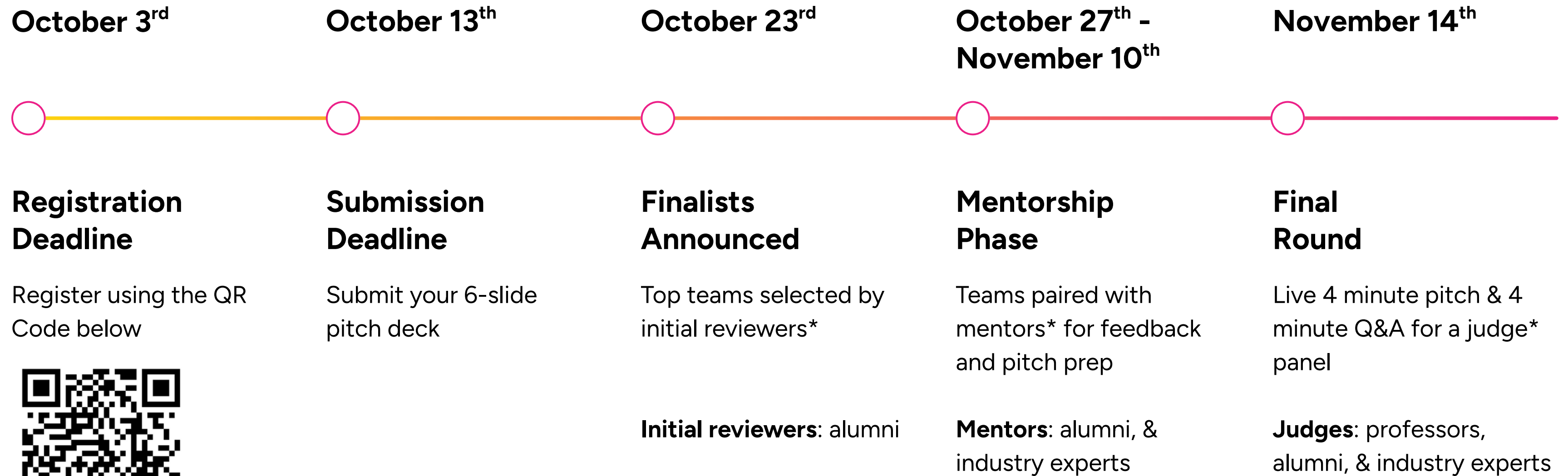
*initial reviewers, mentors & judges are all different people*







# Timeline



*\*initial reviewers, mentors & judges are all different people*



# Pitch Deck Guidelines

Your 6-slide PDF should cover:

- ① Problem & Solution
- ② Business Model
- ③ Target Market, Strategy & Impact
- ④ Team & Progress
- ⑤ SDG Alignment
- ⑥ Innovation & Viability



# Judging Criteria

## Innovation & Impact

Original idea aligned with SDGs

## Business Model Viability

Feasible, sustainable, scalable

## Execution & Traction

Evidence of progress & realistic roadmap

## Team & Leadership

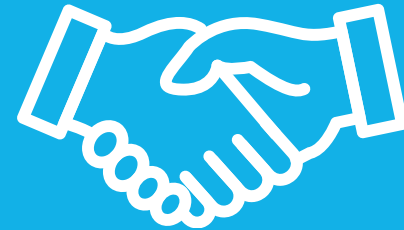
Commitment, clarity, skillset



# Why Should You Join?



**Grow your social  
impact**



**Get Hands-On  
Mentorship & Real  
Feedback**



**Build Your Resume,  
Pitch Skills &  
Network**



**Have a Chance to  
Represent CWRU On  
A Global Stage**



**Compete for \$1M in  
Seed Capital**





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# Ready to get started?



Register Now

