



# UNIVERSITY INNOVATION PROGRAMME

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS EXPO LIVE?

Expo Live is an innovation and partnership programme launched by Expo 2020 Dubai to fund, accelerate and promote creative solutions that improve lives while preserving our planet.

On the journey to 2020, the programme will deploy a combination of grants, challenge prizes and knowledge sharing events focused on the universal drivers of progress: *Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability*.

### WHAT ARE EXPO LIVE'S OBJECTIVES?

1. **Innovation:** Make Expo 2020 Dubai an engine of global innovation that both inspires and acts as a catalyst for creative and scalable solutions.
2. **Partnerships:** Establish a network for collaboration between nations, organisations and innovators around shared global challenges.
3. **Engagement:** Engage participants and stakeholders on the journey to Expo 2020 Dubai by 'connecting minds' to seek and support solutions across Expo's subthemes of *Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability*, while contributing to high quality and relevant content to be exhibited during the event.
4. **Impact:** Create a tangible and quantifiable impact to improve the lives of people around the world by supporting the development and transference of new solutions.



## WHAT IS THE EXPO LIVE UNIVERSITY INNOVATION PROGRAMME?

In line with Expo Live's belief that innovation can come from anywhere to everyone, and consistent with our theme of '*Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*', the programme aims to incentivise creative thinking, problem solving and collaboration between university students in order to solve problems worth solving. The purpose of the programme is to engage university students, cultivate the innovation mindset and reward innovative, student-led projects.

The programme aims to be a short-cycle, grantmaking innovation competition focusing students and mentors on social impact challenges that are relevant to the UAE and our region. The objective is to reward innovative and promising conceptual solutions that can be accelerated through the innovation curve – moving from ideation to validation and prototyping. Our vision is to generate viable solutions, either through the development of commercial applications or further investment in research and development. As with all Expo Live programmes, the solutions must be aligned with Expo 2020's subthemes of *Opportunity, Mobility* and *Sustainability*, and they must generate a social impact.

## HOW DOES THE EXPO LIVE UNIVERSITY INNOVATION WORK?

With annual submissions cycles opening at the beginning of each academic year, the programme aims to create a grassroots movement of innovation and build a community of socially charged students motivated to address global problems relevant to our region.

The programme will offer prizes ranging from **AED 25,000 to AED 50,000**. Structured as a further research and/or development grant, no individual cash prizes will be offered. Funding levels will depend on the stage of maturity and scalability of innovations, and the extent of their potential impact.

## WHAT OTHER BENEFITS WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE?

Beyond participation and grants, students will also have access to networking opportunities and communications exposure, as well as additional capacity-building options and the possibility of showcasing their solutions during Expo 2020 Dubai.

The programme will also build partnerships with local government entities, business incubators, accelerators, mentors and investors in order to strengthen and promote active and productive ecosystems.



## WHO CAN APPLY?

This programme targets undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in any discipline at a UAE-based university.

The following criteria apply:

- > No individual applications will be accepted
- > Groups of two to five students (no more, no less) supported by an academic mentor
- > Each group will be eligible to submit one proposed solution per cycle
- > An academic mentor can facilitate more than one group of students
- > There are no restrictions on the number of applications that may be submitted by a university

Individual professors, think tanks, research centres, and private sector entities are not eligible to apply for this programme.

## HOW TO APPLY?

Students interested in applying to the programme can submit their proposals by following the steps below:

1. Visit our website: [expo2020dubai.ae/expo-live/university](https://expo2020dubai.ae/expo-live/university)
2. Click on how to apply
3. Register your group on the website by following the instructions
4. Submit a short abstract explaining your proposed solution
5. Shortlisted groups will be invited to attend a workshop in preparation for the final event
6. Groups who pass the workshop will be invited to pitch their ideas in front of the Expo Live Evaluation Panel
7. The deadlines for each round of submissions for proposal abstracts are listed on the website

To learn more about the application and evaluation process, please download the grant manual at [expo2020dubai.ae/expo-live/university](https://expo2020dubai.ae/expo-live/university)

For more information, contact us at [expolive@expo2020.ae](mailto:expolive@expo2020.ae)



## WHAT CRITERIA WILL WE USE TO EVALUATE AND SELECT WINNING IDEAS?

The University Innovation Programme seeks to fund creative ideas and help bring them to life by providing support during the demonstration, implementation and/or prototype stages.

Successful applicants will demonstrate how new innovations, or the innovative application of existing solutions, can positively impact communities in the UAE and the wider region.

### EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. To what extent is the proposed solution, or its application, novel or innovative?
2. How feasible is the proposed solution?
3. What is the magnitude of its impact in UAE?
4. What is the strength of the proposed activities and implementation plan?
5. To what extent are the requested amounts appropriate and applicable for the proposed activities?