



UWI
OPEN CAMPUS



Student Entrepreneurial
Competition
on climate change

INFORMATION HANDBOOK

2020-2021

Announcing the launch of The UWI Open Campus Student Competition on Climate Change

2020 - 2021

Hi there!

An important goal of The University of the West Indies Open Campus's Climate Change Competition is to provide useful educational and, entrepreneurial experience focused on important real-world experiences. The focus is on Climate Change and how the Caribbean can best adapt to and mitigate resulting social, economic, and environmental impacts. At the 'One Planet Summit' in Paris on December 12, 2017 Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, Chair of CARICOM stated, *"We need to come together to build a better future for the people of the Caribbean....Together we can build thriving economies fueled by clean energy, nature-based resilient design and innovation. The time for action is now."*

The UWI Open Campus (UWIOC) invites student teams to submit ideas in the form of short proposals concerning the impact of Climate Change on the Caribbean. Our interests are broad in scope and include the environment, the economy and society. We invite students to work together in teams of 3 to 6 students. Each team should consider real-world outcomes of their ideas; for example, launching new products, inventing or applying technology, creating new services, or suggesting policy initiatives. Between August and November 2020, UWIOC Student Teams are invited to organize with UWIOC faculty or approved mentors to submit business plans and concept papers on topics focused on current and projected Climate Change Impacts on the Caribbean's economic, environmental, and social sectors.

Central Objectives of the Climate Change Competition are to:



Address near and longer term challenges in the Caribbean as a result of climate change



Promote the education and real-world experience of The UWI Open Campus Students



Have a positive impact on critically important social, economic, and policy issues in the Caribbean

This competition is focused on mitigating the negative impact of climate change. While the scope of climate change is vast, this competition will focus on five (5) themes that are important to the Caribbean:

1. Environmental Conservation and Justice
2. Country-specific or regional policies and laws
3. Innovative businesses to reduce carbon footprint
4. Impactful communication and environmental education
5. Urban and community resilience



Competition Core Values



Vision

We seek to have The UWIOC Climate Change Competition be an important catalyst for environmental and social sustainability and business development throughout the Caribbean.



Mission

During each academic year The UWIOC will organize regional student entrepreneurial projects and competitions focused on Climate Change and the development and promotion of creative and innovative policy and successful business ventures for regional development and start-up and established Caribbean industry.

How to Apply

Step 1:

- Download and complete the required forms by clicking [here](http://www.open.uwi.edu/climate-change) or by visiting the competition website at www.open.uwi.edu/climate-change by **September 30th 2020**.

Step 2:

During Semester 1 (Sep-Dec 2020) teams are advised to work on their proposals and, contribute relevant research materials to the Competition's website. Teams are to communicate with their mentors and advisors and select representatives of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (www.caribbeanclimate.biz -5Cs), and others listed on our website.

- Create your 3-5 page proposal answering the following:
 - History of creation of the initiative
 - Problem being addressed by the initiative and the solution being proposed
 - Areas for collaboration and potential partner organizations
 - The impact of the initiative
 - The initiative's growth strategy and sustainability plan.
- Create a 90-second pitch video about your proposal and be creative.
Video submissions should meet these requirements:
Recommended size: 1280 X 720 pixels
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Compression: H.264
Frame Rate: 30fps
Format: .mov or .mp4

The UWI is not responsible for files that cannot be opened.

Step 3:

- Upload the necessary files to the competition webpage. A Google account is required to upload files. Documents required:
 - 90-second pitch video
 - 3-5 page proposal



Competition Details



This competition is divided into two (2) levels;

Level 1 (Sep-Dec 2020):

During September and December 2020, the Student Teams will be formed at the National Level and include UWI Open Campus students and faculty. An important objective is to maximize national or local creativity of student team submissions. Also at the National Level a panel of academic, business, and public sector representatives will judge the National Competitions.

Level 2 (Jan-Apr 2021):

Student Teams completing Level 1 requirements will be notified concerning the final evaluation of their submission. Winning National Teams will be invited to compete in the Caribbean Regional Competition during Semester 2. At the end of Semester 2, Regional Competition Awards will be announced. Winning Teams will also be able to receive continued mentoring of their idea or business proposal by National and International Mentors through the Summer Term in 2021.

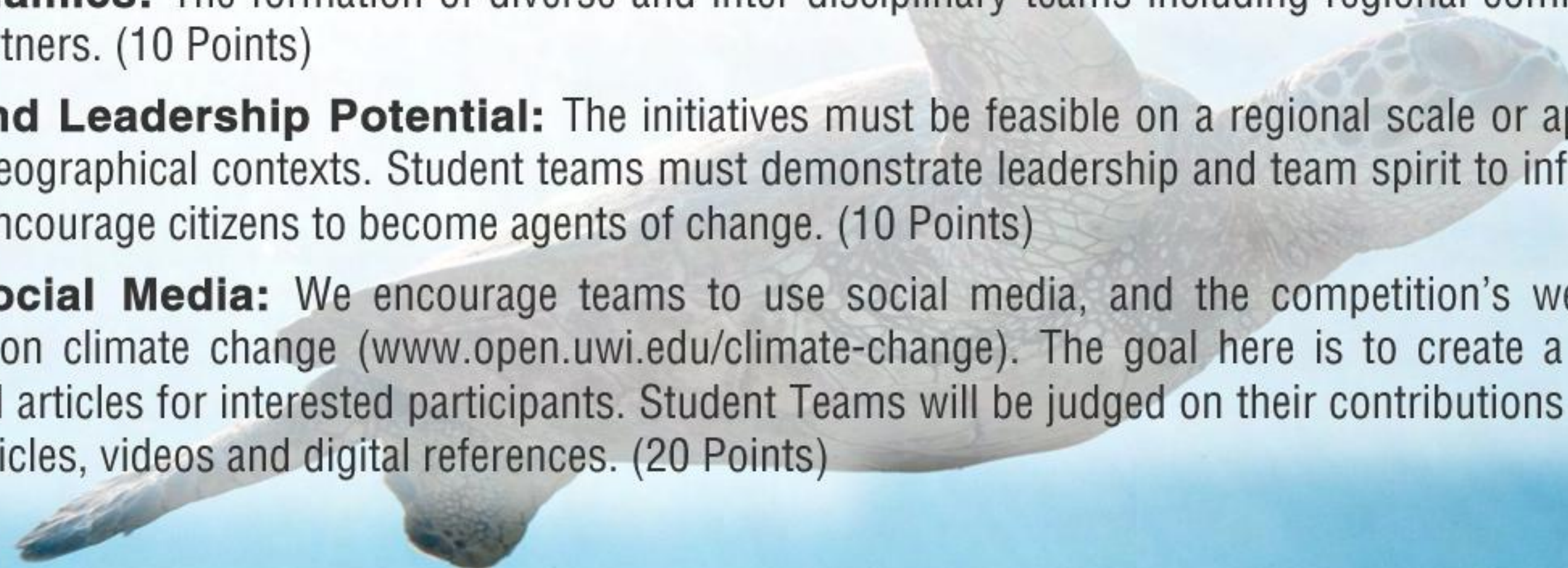
Eligibility Requirements:

- Student teams must have at least three (3) active students from The UWI Open Campus. Teams can also be comprised of members from regional universities. The maximum number of members in a team is six (6).
- Be over 18 years of age at the time of registration.
- Have new ideas, startups and initiatives offering or likely to offer services, indigenous and/or innovative technological solutions to improve the Caribbean's resilience to the challenges of global climate change.
- Each student team must have a mentor. This mentor can be a faculty member of any of the UWI's campuses or, an individual external to the University. Please note that external mentors will be evaluated by the Climate Change Competition Committee.
- All competition documents should be submitted in English.

Evaluation Criteria

Competition submissions will be allocated points based on:

- **Impact:** Initiatives must be able to demonstrate a positive social and/or environmental impact in the face of climate change in at least one of the thematic areas. (20 Points)
- **Innovation:** The initiatives present an innovative way of approaching existing solutions, or the applications to new contexts. (20 Points)
- **Financial and Operational Viability:** Student teams should present realistic plans on how to generate medium to long-term impact, by demonstrating how they would mobilize financial, human resources, the public/private sector or support networks. Teams should not only describe how they plan to seek funding, but also their plan for sustainability. (20 Points)
- **Team Dynamics:** The formation of diverse and inter-disciplinary teams including regional community, government and business partners. (10 Points)
- **Growth and Leadership Potential:** The initiatives must be feasible on a regional scale or applicable in other social, cultural or geographical contexts. Student teams must demonstrate leadership and team spirit to influence the field in which they work, encourage citizens to become agents of change. (10 Points)
- **Use of Social Media:** We encourage teams to use social media, and the competition's website to share relevant information on climate change (www.open.uwi.edu/climate-change). The goal here is to create a digital library of useful research and articles for interested participants. Student Teams will be judged on their contributions to this Library including research, articles, videos and digital references. (20 Points)



The Selection Process

This competition has three phases divided into two levels. The UWI reserves the right to update, modify, cancel or suspend this process at anytime, without prior notice.

Level 1

Phase One: After student teams have completed their application and submitted via our online form, a member of the Climate Change Competition Committee will review the submission to ensure all the required files are uploaded. If an external mentor has been recommended by student teams, the committee will evaluate the mentor and provide feedback to teams going forward.

Phase Two: The competition committee will review completed submissions based on the evaluation criteria (page 2) together with a focus on interesting and compelling social, environment, and/or business challenges, opportunities, and proposed solutions motivated by Climate Change, a well referenced proposal building on, and citing, relevant research and knowledge. Creative use of social media that would include web-based projects, discussions and presentations to promote their project. Showing meaningful social, environmental, or business impact in the Caribbean and the ability to scale to a sustainable endeavour. At the end of this phase, a selection will be made at the country level to advance into the regional competition (Level 2).

Level 2

Phase Three: At the end of phase two at the national Level, select teams will be invited to participate at the Caribbean-wide Regional Competition as they continue to refine and improve their submissions with their regional and international mentors, to strengthen their proposals and for an implementation plan around the ideas developed in Phase I and II.

Competition Prizes

At the conclusion of the Caribbean-wide Competition, awards will be announced and may include Certificates of Accomplishment, internships at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, electronics and cash awards. Winning Teams will also be able to receive continued mentoring of their idea or business proposal by National and International Mentors during the summer semester of 2021. Student Teams will also receive prizes for different categories including, proposal with the most significant impact and potential to scale, most creative idea, best use of multidisciplinary team member talents and, best use of Social Media.

Competition Timeline



June 30th 2021 - Final Competition Awards Announced

For more information

If you require additional information or would like to become a sponsor, please contact the Student Entrepreneurial Competition Committee at:

sec@open.uwi.edu

About The UWI



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
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For over 70 years The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has provided service and leadership to the Caribbean region and wider world. The UWI has evolved from a university college of London in Jamaica with 33 medical students in 1948 to an internationally respected, regional university with near 50,000 students and five campuses: Mona in Jamaica, St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago, Cave Hill in Barbados, Five Islands in Antigua and Barbuda and an Open Campus.

As the region's premier research academy, The UWI's foremost objective is driving the growth and development of the regional economy. The world's most reputable ranking agency, Times Higher Education, has ranked The UWI among the top 600 universities in the world for 2019 and 2020, and the 40 best universities in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2018 and 2019. The UWI has been the only Caribbean-based university to make the prestigious lists.

About The UWI Open Campus



The University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus is one of the five campuses that make up the pillars of The UWI, which was established in 1948. The institutionally accredited UWI serves the people of the region by offering higher, distance and continuing educational products, research and innovation and outreach services from all of its locations across the Caribbean region.

The Open Campus of the University of the West Indies believes that the high-quality university education, research and services available at our institution should be open and available to all people who wish to reach their full potential inside and outside of the Caribbean region. The Open Campus delivers quality teaching and learning experiences, innovative pedagogic design, relevant research and community partnerships to deliver face-to-face, blended and online learning.

