



ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMER SCHOOL

October 2023, Addis Ababa (tbc)

THE CALL

This call for technological and business innovations offers start-ups, nascent firms and other entities founded and managed by university students (can include 1 University Academic) the opportunity to showcase the innovations and get training and mentorship support to consolidate their business plan and their teams. The selected teams will also have the chance to meet potential partners, seasoned innovators and entrepreneurs, investors, public funders and industrial research institutes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible:

- 1) The team should comprise of currently registered University students or students that have graduated in the last three years
- 2) University students studying in the diaspora whose solutions target Africa and are linked to an African university may be considered irrespective of their current location or nationalities.
- 3) The start-up should be at an early stage of business development (younger than 5 years).
- 4) The business should have a clearly identified target population (its end-users and/or customers).
- 5) The business should have measurable performance indicators (e.g. prototype tested, sales, clients etc).
- 6) Have a preliminary business plan (no more than 6 pages).
- 7) The business should have potential for surviving in the market, if not yet the market

REQUIREMENTS

Your business concept may have to meet the following:

- ✓ **Be an entrepreneurial idea, concept and business** from any sector of the economy. The ideas and business **MUST** be **technical or technological in nature or is advancing** existing business practices. As such, simple buying and selling or poor copy cut of existing businesses in your country or Africa may not be considered. You must have a **product or process** in hand; improving an existing one or designing a new prototype you can showcase. As such, research projects will not be considered.

SELECTION OF TEAM

Submit your idea/project with your business plan (5 pages maximum) through the contact person at your university with a copy to Asfaw and Gedion by 31 May 2023. Please mention clearly your University contact name, function and email. The concepts will be assessed by the Technical Committee.

Selected teams will be informed by 30 June 2023 and will be offered a 3 months of potential mentorship and training if needed. The advanced business plans will be resubmitted to UNECA and your University contact by 15 September 2023.

In all cases, highlight the novelty of the product, process or business model and its current limitations and/or requirements to enable judges and partners fully appreciate your innovation. Final selection will then take place by 30 September 2023.

Send your applications to: Asfaw Yitna – yitna@un.org & Gedion Workneh – workneh@un.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Submission of initial ideas: 15 June 2023

Deadline for submission of final project: 15 September 2023