

ANNEX

Invitation to Participate in the China International College Students' Innovation Competition (CICSIC) 2026

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The China International College Students' Innovation Competition (CICSIC) is dedicated to promoting international exchange and collaboration in innovation and entrepreneurship. As a global platform for college students to showcase their innovation practices, CICSIC has become one of the largest innovation competitions worldwide. From 2017 to 2025, CICSIC welcomed over international 50,000 projects and 180,000 students from 157 countries and regions. This year, we are thrilled to host the CICSIC 2026 Grand Final in Nanjing, China. We sincerely invite outstanding young minds from across the globe to participate and join us in realizing your innovative dreams and creating a brighter future together.

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I. Entry Requirements

1 Projects should address societal needs, create innovative products and business models, and contribute to the advancement of manufacturing, agriculture, health, energy, environmental protection and strategic emerging industries. Projects promoting the integration of digital technologies with education, healthcare, transportation, finance, consumption, and cultural exchange are also encouraged. For specific guidance on project suitability, please consult with the inviting Chinese institution or the designated international co-organizing partner for your region.

2 Projects must promote positive values, be authentic, healthy and legal, and must not contain anything that violates any applicable laws or regulations. All inventions, patented technologies, and resources utilized must be accompanied by the necessary intellectual property and proprietary rights. Submission of plagiarized or infringing work, or provision of false materials will result in immediate disqualification, forfeiture of any awards, and full legal liability.

3 Entrants must select the appropriate category for their projects and submit accurate and complete entry materials through the official registration system by the specified deadline. Each student may join only 1 project per track. Projects winning previous CICSIC Grand Final awards are ineligible for this year's competition.

4 Entrants must be under 35 years of age (born after March 1, 1991).

II. How to Participate

The Competition only accepts team entries. Teams may be composed of students from multiple colleges. Each team must consist of 2 to 15 members, including a designated team leader. All team members must be core contributors to the project.

Team members must be currently enrolled students at a non-Chinese institution of higher education or have graduated from such an institution within the past five years (i.e., graduated after 2021, the same hereinafter). The applicant must be the team leader, and the institution where the team leader is currently enrolled or from which they graduated must be the institution the team represents. A team can represent only one institution. A "non-Chinese institution" refers to a university or junior college located outside the People's Republic of China that is accredited to provide tertiary education and award degrees. An "enrolled

student" is defined as a student officially registered and studying at a non-Chinese institution, pursuing a degree or diploma.

Projects will be categorized based on the applicant's academic status (Undergraduate or Postgraduate) and the project's stage of development (Idea Stage or Startup Stage). Institutions are responsible for guiding their teams to select the correct category during registration.

The specific entry requirements are as follows:

(i) Undergraduate

1. Idea Stage. Projects should demonstrate strong creativity and a well-developed product prototype or service model, and must not have completed any business registration (including industrial and commercial) before July 23, 2026. The applicant, acting as the project leader, and all team members must be currently enrolled undergraduate or associate degree students.
2. Startup Stage. Projects must have completed all necessary business registrations (including industrial and commercial) before July 23, 2026. The applicant must be the project leader and the legal representative of the registered company, and must be either a currently enrolled undergraduate or associate degree student, or have graduated from an undergraduate or associate degree program within the past five years.

(ii) Postgraduate

1. Idea Stage. Projects should demonstrate strong creativity and a well-developed product prototype or service model, and must not have completed any business registration (including industrial and commercial) before July 23, 2026. The applicant must be the team leader and a currently enrolled postgraduate student. Team members can be currently enrolled postgraduate, undergraduate, or associate degree students.
2. Startup Stage. Projects must have completed all necessary business registrations (including industrial and commercial) before July 23, 2026. The applicant must be the project leader and the legal representative of the participating company, and must be either a currently enrolled postgraduate student or a postgraduate degree holder who graduated within the past five years.

III. Competition Rules

International entries of the Higher Education Main Track will be evaluated alongside entries from Chinese mainland as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan regions of China, but ranked separately. The Competition consists of three stages - Eligibility Review, Online Evaluation and On-site Competition - and will be organized by the Organizing Committee.

1 Eligibility Review (September 16-25, 2026). The Organizing Committee will review all submitted materials from international participants to ensure completeness and adherence to eligibility requirements.

2 Online Evaluation (September 26 - October 25, 2026). Qualified entries will undergo multiple rounds of online evaluation, culminating in the selection of finalists.

3 On-site Competition (November 2026). The selected finalists will advance to the Grand Final on-site competition. If participation in the on-site competition is not possible, the finalists may participate via online presentation.

IV. Awards

International projects will vie for 60 Gold Awards, 120 Silver Awards, and 420 Bronze Awards.

V. Registration

1 Register and submit all necessary materials online at <https://www.pilcchina.org>, the official website for the Promotion Association for Global Youth Innovation Leaders Community (PILC). Registration opens at 0:00 on August 20, 2026 and closes at 24:00 on September 15, 2026 (China Standard Time, UTC+8).

2 Submit your business plan in PPT format. You may also include supplementary materials, such as a Word document or a 1-minute video. For the convenience of evaluation, please convert your business plan into PDF format prior to uploading.

3 For the convenience of eligibility review, all team members must submit proof of their student status or shareholder status, as applicable, by the registration deadline. Teams with mentors should provide their mentor's information during registration.

4 All submitted materials and presentations should be in either Chinese or English. Contact the Organizing Committee for guidance if another language is required.

VI. Judging Rules and Criteria

For detailed information on the Competition's judging rules and criteria, please visit <https://cy.ncss.cn> or <https://www.pilchina.org>.

VII. Other

The final interpretation of the terms and conditions outlined in this Annex rests with the Organizing Committee of the China International College Students' Innovation Competition (CICSIC).

VIII. Contact Information



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China International College Students' Innovation Competition (CICSIC)

Organizing Committee

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