

ALLIANCE OF GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL SISTER-CITY UNIVERSITIES COMPETITION RULES

Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities overview

The Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU) currently includes 20 members and affiliate members representing 5 continents, 17 countries, 19 sister and friendly cities, a combined population of almost 38 million, over half a million students and 47,000 faculty and staff. Supported by the People's Government of the Guangzhou Municipality, GISU's mission is to attract and leverage the academic resources of its members in close collaboration for the sustainable development of our cities.

Strategic goals of each city's economic and social development should be considered with the basic idea of promoting sustainable urban development through scientific and technological innovation.

Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition

The third Urban Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition sponsored by the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities and hosted by the University of Padova (Italy) will be held from March to November 2023.

The competition is promoted by members of the GISU alliance and the theme of this year's competition is Promoting Sustainable Urban Development with Scientific and Technological Innovation.

Eligible Participants

Full-time students over 18 years old or graduates within 5 years of graduation (graduates after 2018) belonging to one of the GISU member or affiliate member universities. The principal applicant will be considered as the team leader.

Current GISU members and affiliate members include:

- Belarusian State University of Physical Culture
- Charles Darwin University
- Durban University of Technology
- Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- Guangzhou Medical University
- Guangzhou University
- Incheon National University

- Linköping University
- Middle East Technical University
- National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”
- Polytechnic University of Valencia
- Stellenbosch University
- Tampere University
- University of Coimbra
- University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City
- University of Padova
- University of Quebec at Montreal
- University of the West of England
- University of Zaragoza
- Western Sydney University

Based on different projects and categories, competition groups include:

- **CONCEPT TEAMS:** Members of the team have not funded a company but have a business idea or project.

- **START-UP TEAMS:** Members have launched a start-up company. The company must not have been established before 2021. The equity of the legal representative of the participating enterprise shall not be less than 10% and the total equity of the participating members shall not be less than 1/3. The corporate legal representative shall not be allowed to make changes after the announcement of the contest.

Each category is valid only when the minimum of entries is more than 6 (six).

Project Requirements

The entries must be real, legal, and in good standing without any negative records. The forum and competition must not infringe on intellectual property rights of others. Inventions, patents, resources, etc. involved must have clear and legal property rights or intellectual property rights. Plagiarism, misappropriation, provision of false materials, or violation of relevant laws and regulations will result in the project team immediately losing rights to participate and will bear all legal responsibilities.

Given this project involves the intellectual property rights of others, a complete written authorization letter, patent certificate, etc. for the owner with legal effect must be submitted. For entrepreneurial projects that have completed company registration, its

profile and legal representative status, shareholding structure, and copies of other relevant certification documents must be provided. Participating projects can provide relevant financial materials, such as current financial record, details of investment received, employment status, and ecological contributions. For projects that have been funded or have earned more than ten million RMB (or equivalent in other currencies), corresponding supporting materials are recommended.

Registration for the forum and competition must come as a team. Multi-disciplinary, inter-professional, inter-university, and multinational teams are encouraged.

Each team must have at least two participating members and must be actual members of the project.

Entrepreneurship projects reported by participating teams must be projects planned or operated by the team. Borrowing projects from others is not allowed. The GISU member university where the project leader is currently enrolled will be taken as the home university of the project.

Registration for the forum and competition must come as a team. Multi-disciplinary, inter-professional, inter-university, and multinational teams are encouraged. Each team must have **at least two participating members and must be actual members of the project.**

For start-up projects that have completed company registration, the company profile and legal representative status, shareholding structure, and copies of other relevant certification documents must be provided ***during the in-school competition to the relevant university.***

Registration

Participating teams register for the in-school preliminary competition according to the guidelines of each Alliance member. Please consult your designated university contact for further registration details.

Project Submission Requirements

- Project demonstration video: MP4 format, maximum five-minute video duration with size to not exceed set limits. Videos submitted should be encoded as H.264 while audio is encoded as AAC with the resolution being 800 * 600.
- Project presentation powerpoint: in the format of ppt or pptx with the size to not exceed 20M, for maximum five-minute presentation duration.
- Business Plan: PDF format.
- Summary of project: brief summary of the project, about 300 words, to be published on the promotional website for the competition hosted by the University of Padova.

Please nominate the file as follows:

TEAMNAME_PROJECT_VIDEO,
TEAMNAME_PROJECT_PPT,
TEAMNAME_BUSINESS_PLAN,
TEAMNAME_PROJECT_SUMMARY.

Stages of Competition

1. IN-SCHOOL PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

The competition stages and selection methods of this preliminary round are determined by each GISU member university. Each member university is responsible to ideally select no less than five participating teams to enter the online semi-final competition.

Submission of the entries for the preliminary competition by 16 June 2023

Project presentation videos, PPT, business plans and summary for the online semi-final competition need to be uploaded to the designated online system or sent to the designated mailbox by the member university.

Deadline to upload the team entries: 23 June 2023

2. SEMI-FINAL ONLINE

The online semi-final competition is organized by the competition organizing committee and its expert judges who will select from the project presentation videos, and PPTs submitted by the participating teams recommended by each member university through the network to finalize 12 teams (12 for the Concept category and 12 for the Start-up category) to compete in the final.

List of semi-finalists to be announced starting from 10 July 2023

3. FINAL COMPETITION

This will be held in-person in Padova, Italy.

The final competition will be held either virtually or in-person in Padova for the 12 teams selected. The finals will take the competition form of presentations by participating teams with panel group interviews.

Date: 9-10 November 2023, date to be confirmed

Judging Criteria

Competition Finalists will be judged by the following criteria but not limited to:

- Innovation – Assessment of the level of innovation;
- Team – Assessment of the qualifications of team members, teamwork and external partners;
- Commerciality – Assessment of business feasibility, operating performance, growth potential and cash flow;
- Social Benefits – Assessment of contributions driving employment and other sustainable developments;
- Communication – Assessment of presentation.

Certificates and Training Opportunities

All semi-finalists will receive a participation certificate and appreciation letter provided by the Alliance.

Online course will be offered to semi-finalists with the aim to improve their performance for the final competition:

- How to prepare and manage a short presentation

- How to prepare a business plan for a start-up
- Introduction to Lean start-up

The above courses are not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

Final Competition Awards and Bonuses

There will be gold, silver, bronze awards and outstanding mentor awards to be presented in the finals. Some awards may be vacant according to the number of entries. All awards are subject to applicable taxes. The forum and competition organizing committee will issue award certificates, medals and bonuses.

- **FINAL AWARDS FOR CONCEPT TEAMS**

Awards	Number	Bonus <i>*All award money is subject to applicable taxes.</i>
GOLD	1	100,000 RMB (or equivalent)
SILVER	2	50,000 RMB (or equivalent)
BRONZE	3	20,000 RMB (or equivalent)
OUTSTANDING MENTOR	6	5,000 RMB (or equivalent)

- **FINAL AWARDS FOR START-UP TEAMS**

Awards	Number	Bonus <i>*All award money is subject to applicable taxes.</i>
GOLD	1	ACCELERATION PROGRAMME (consultancy equivalent to 10,000 EURO)

SILVER	1	ACCELERATION PROGRAMME (consultancy equivalent to 8,000 EURO)
BRONZE	1	ACCELERATION PROGRAMME (consultancy equivalent to 5,000 EURO)

Competition Disclaimer

The Entrepreneurship Competition organizing committee for the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities (GISU) reserves the right to require competitors to sign an affidavit that they meet each of the eligibility requirements as outlined in the application process.

By participating in the competition, competitors agree that the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-City Universities assumes no liability, and shall have no liability or obligation whatsoever for disclosures of information provided by a competitor as part of a submission or otherwise during the course of the forum and competitions.

Failure to comply with competition requirements may result in disqualification at any time in the sole discretion of the Entrepreneurship Competition organizing committee. The Entrepreneurship Competition organizing committee reserves the final say in all disputes and may at any time require that a finalist or winner of any cash or service award that failed to comply with requirements as outlined in the application process forfeit and/or repay any such award. Guidelines, rules and awards for the competitions are subject to change at any time as might be required by the Entrepreneurship Competition organizing committee. All award money is subject to applicable taxes.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact the University of Padova at the following email:

gisu.competition@unipd.it

Organizational secretariat:

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