

2nd SEDA Innovation Challenge (SIC) 2026

FAQ

1. Who can participate in SIC 2026?

The competition is open to **youth aged 18–30** who are **full-time students** enrolled in higher education institutions registered under the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE). Eligible participants include students in **Pre-University (Pre-U), Diploma, Undergraduate, and Postgraduate programmes** at **public and private universities (IPTA/IPTS), polytechnics, and community colleges**.

International students residing in Malaysia are also eligible, provided they are enrolled as **full-time students at a Malaysian higher education institution**.

2. Can I participate as an individual?

No. Participation is on a **team-based**, with a maximum of four (4) members per team. All team members must be from the **same institution**, but they **can be from different courses or programmes**.

3. Are there any gender requirements for the team?

Yes. Each team must include **at least one female member** to encourage **diversity and inclusivity**.

4. Who should be the team leader?

Each team must appoint **one Team Leader**, who must be a **Malaysian citizen**. The Team Leader is the **main point of contact** and is responsible for **all submissions and communication with the organiser**.

5. Can we have a lecturer as a mentor or guide?

Yes. Each team is encouraged to seek guidance from lecturers as mentors. Mentors can provide advice on **technical, conceptual, or project management aspects** but **cannot participate as team members**.

6. Can a team participate in both categories?

No. Each team may participate in **only one category**.

7. Is there a registration fee to participate in SIC 2026?

No. Participation in the **SEDA Innovation Challenge (SIC) 2026** is **free of charge**, and **no registration fee is required**.

8. Do participants receive a certificate?

Yes. Participants who submit their project up to the **Preliminary Stage (Video Submission)** are entitled to receive a **participation e-certificate**.

Finalists and winners will receive **additional recognition** through **winner certificates, awards, and special recognition certificates**, depending on their achievements in the competition.

9. Where can participants get information about the competition stages after registration?

All information regarding the **competition stages after registration**, including **video submission, documentation submission, and the exhibition**, will be shared through the **official SIC 2026 Telegram channel**.

Participants **will be added to the group after completing registration** to ensure they receive **timely updates and announcements**.

10. Can we submit a new video for the Best Video Award?

Yes. Participants can either **use the video submitted during the Preliminary Stage (Video Submission)** or **submit a new or improved video during the Documentation Submission stage** to compete for the **Best Video Award**.

11. Can a team change its project title or scope after registration?

Yes. A team may request to change **its project title or scope after registration**. However, the Team Leader must formally inform SEDA Malaysia before the Preliminary Stage (Video Submission). Any request must be supported with a strong and clear justification. Any changes are subject to approval by SEDA Malaysia.

12. Can a team change members after registration?

Yes, changes to **team members may be permitted** after registration. The **Team Leader is required to notify SEDA Malaysia before the Preliminary Stage (Video Submission)** and provide a **valid justification for the change**.

All revised team compositions must **continue to comply with the competition's eligibility and team requirements**, and any changes are **subject to approval by SEDA Malaysia**.

13. How will teams be notified if they are shortlisted?

Shortlisted teams will be **officially notified via email** using the contact details provided during registration. Teams are advised to **ensure that their email information is accurate** and to **regularly check their inbox, including spam or junk folders**, to avoid missing any important notifications.

14. Who owns the intellectual property (IP) of the submitted ideas or prototypes?

The **intellectual property (IP) rights** of all submitted ideas and prototypes **remain with the participating teams**. However, **SEDA Malaysia reserves the right to use submitted materials for promotional, reporting, and non-commercial purposes related to the SEDA Innovation Challenge, with proper acknowledgement given to the teams**.

15. Can previously developed projects be submitted to SIC 2026?

Yes. Previously developed projects may be submitted, **provided that clear improvements or further developments made specifically for SIC 2026**. Teams must **explain and demonstrate these enhancements in their video submission and project documentation**.

Improvements may **include updates to the design, functionality, application, scope, impact, or technology used**. All enhancements will be evaluated based on the information and supporting evidence submitted during the evaluation stages.

16. How can we contact SEDA for enquiries?

For any questions or clarification regarding the competition, you can reach out to the SEDA Innovation Challenge team via email to seda.innovationch@seda.gov.my.