

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 2024

How does the challenge work?

The Healthcare Innovation Challenge is divided in 2 parts:

- Round 1 (*The Written Round*): Draft a written solution proposal to the challenge question posed. Your submission includes a 1-page written proposal in response to the challenge question and a 5-slide “pitch” deck outlining your solution.
- Round 2 (*The Live Pitch*): The top 5 scoring teams will advance to the final presentation round, where they will give a 5-minute pitch outlining their solution to an esteemed panel of expert judges and an audience of University of Toronto students and faculty.

What are the important dates to know?

Key dates may vary year-by-year. Generally, registration begins in Winter and continues into Spring.

Sample dates from the 2022 competition year:

- Deadline to Register: Friday, May 27, 2022 @ 11:59 PM
- Question Release: Monday, May 30, 2022 12:01 AM
- Round 1 Submission: Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 11:59 PM
- Round 2 Live Pitch: Tuesday, June 24, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

How can I register my team?

Only **ONE** member of your team must sign-up using the registration form found on our website. The individual who completes this form will be assigned as Team Captain.

Who can be on my team?

- Teams must have **AT LEAST 1** graduate student from the Institute of Medical Science.
- Teams require a **minimum of 2** and may have a **maximum of 5** members.
- All team members must be registered graduate students (Masters or Doctoral) at a post-secondary institution in Ontario, Canada.

I do not have a team. Can I still join?

Yes! Complete the form and indicate that you are a **FREE AGENT**. You will be assigned to a team with other free agents, or assigned to a team that is recruiting free agents.



I have a team, but we do not have an IMS teammate. Can we join?

Yes! Register your team using the form on our website. When completing the registration form, indicate in the checkbox that your team does not have an IMS member. You will be assigned a free agent from the IMS to join your team.

Do you provide accommodations or transportation for Round 2?

Presently, we are unable to support our competitors with transportation or accommodations for teams that advance to Round 2. We are also unable to support remote or call-in live pitches at this time.

Competitors are required to find their own lodging and transport to our competition in the event that they are selected to advance to Round 2.

I cannot make it to Round 2. Can I Zoom in?

No. We require all advancing teams to be physically present and on-site on the day of the live pitches. Your team can still pitch if some of their team members are not present.

What is the time commitment like?

The Healthcare Innovation Challenge is not meant to be a rigorous academic event.

The written proposal is only 1-page single-spaced. It is intended to be an opportunity to succinctly elaborate on your proposed solution. We estimate you and your team may meet 2-3 times to discuss your solution, and then divide the work for the 1-page proposal and 5-slide deck. If you make it to the live Pitch Round, we estimate you will practice 1-2 times with your group and prepare answers to any possible questions.

Are there prizes?

Yes! The top 3 teams in Round 2 are awarded cash prizes for their winning pitches. The top-scoring team will be connected with community and institution resources to help bring their innovative idea to life.

I cannot commit to participating. Can I attend Round 2?

Yes! We invite you to join us for the live Pitch Round as a guest. Attendance as a guest is free. It can be a great opportunity to see what we're all about and network with our judges and competitors.

I participated in previous years. Can I participate again?

Yes! As long as you are still a registered graduate student at a post-secondary institution in Ontario, Canada, you may register and compete. In fact, we encourage you to join us again, whether or not you advanced to Round 2 or even if you were a finalist!

What is a "challenge theme?"

The challenge themes are two seemingly unrelated yet pertinent healthcare topics that we unify to create our challenge question. The purpose of intersecting two distinct fields is to spark creative thinking. We want our participants to seek innovation in places they'd least expect to see it.

For reference, our 2022 event challenge themes were Artificial Intelligence and Refugee Health. In 2023, we combined Artificial Intelligence and Health Infrastructure.

When do we find out the challenge themes?

That's the million dollar question! The challenge question and all case details will be emailed to all teams following the end of the registration. Stay tuned!

What if I'm not an expert in the themes?

You do not need to have expertise or prior knowledge to succeed.

The purpose of the Healthcare Innovation Challenge is to get you out of your academic comfort zone, exercise creativity, and put knowledge translation into action. We are looking for CREATIVE solutions that will benefit the Canadian healthcare system.

How can I stay connected to learn more?

Follow us on Instagram (@thehealthinnovc), Twitter (@TheHealthInnovC), and LinkedIn (The Healthcare Innovation Challenge). We update our website regularly and post updates frequently across all social media.

I have more questions. Who can I contact?

Reach out to us by email at healthcareinnovchallenge@gmail.com. A member of our organizing team will respond to your inquiry at our earliest opportunity. You can also send us a direct message on our social media.