

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can enter?

Any student registered at Brunel, Kingston, Roehampton, Royal Holloway, St George's, St Mary's, Thames Valley or Westminster. You can be any level (undergraduate to PhD), full time or part-time.

What if I am a graduate, member of staff or local business?

Unfortunately, the Bright Ideas competition is only for existing students.

However, there are other business competitions launched at intervals throughout the year. Please keep checking the Entrepreneurship Centre website for further information.

Can I enter as an individual and as a team member?

You may enter one idea as an individual and as many other ideas as you wish as a member of a team or teams. Each team needs to have a named lead, with whom WestFocus will correspond. You may be the leader of one team, and a member of as many as you wish. So to summarize: you may enter as an individual once, and in addition as a leader of a team once, and in addition as a team member as many times as you wish.

When is the closing deadline?

5pm, Friday 11 December 09

- You need to have emailed your entry form to entrepreneurship@westfocus.org.uk
- You need to have posted a hard copy of the entry form, signed by all team members. Address on the forms.

How do I get help completing the entry form?

We are running workshops to help you with formulating an idea & completing the entry form. You can attend any workshop at any institution: to register for one of these workshops please register via the website on the events page.

http://www.westfocus.org.uk/Entrepreneurship/e35_Overview.aspx

If you are unable to attend any of the workshops you may be able to access one-to-one coaching from entrepreneur experts based in your institution. Please look up your institution contacts on the WestFocus to find out more.

http://www.westfocus.org.uk/entrepreneurship/t10_Team_Contacts.aspx

In addition, in the final days before the competition closes, we will be running surgeries which you can attend for more detailed input. Please check the website for details.

Finally, you can email your queries to entrepreneurship@WestFocus.org.uk.

Don't leave it too late!

How do I download the competition documents?

The documents are all PDF's (except the entry form). You need Adobe Acrobat Reader software to read these. The software is free to download

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

If you still have problems email entrepreneurship@westfocus.org.uk

Is my Intellectual Property protected?

The only part of your entry which may be made public by WestFocus is the 20 word Public Summary which you write, and which you must include in your entry. This may be used by WestFocus for publicity purposes.

All entries to Bright Ideas will be treated as confidential throughout the course of the competition. Entrants are advised to treat their ideas and discussions as confidential to ensure that intellectual property is not inadvertently disclosed.

External reviewers, judges and experts will be asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement before reviewing entries. Under this agreement, business ideas disclosed in the course of this competition are treated as confidential from the date of signing. It will be the responsibility of entrants to enforce any suspected breaches of confidentiality.

Please read the terms relating to IP as listed in the terms and conditions section of the entry form – remember you are signing to show your agreement to them:

- All ideas entered must be your own ideas or the ideas of your team members. By submitting this form you attest to your right to present these ideas as your own or your team's and to their originality. Students should be aware that any ideas developed in the course of research projects in conjunction with academic staff will have implications as to the ownership of the intellectual property.
- You must take care to keep your ideas confidential and all ideas will be treated in the strictest confidence by us.
- Each Team that develops an idea will retain all legal and equitable rights to the idea at all times prior to and following the competition. However, in no event shall the WestFocus, or the WestFocus Entrepreneurship Centre, be liable for any infringement of the Team's intellectual property or other rights.
- An idea that has already received external investment from a venture capital firm, private investor or other industry source may be deemed by the WestFocus Entrepreneurship Centre in its sole and absolute discretion to be ineligible to compete in the Competition.

What is Intellectual Property?

Intellectual property (IP) means any idea, invention, innovation, business concept, business plan or trade secret, whether or not containing any copyright, database rights, typography, design rights and trade marks (whether registered or unregistered), domain names, moral rights, patent rights, know-how, show-how, trade dress and all other intellectual property rights of any nature or application for any of the above in the United Kingdom or any similar or analogous rights in any other country of the world.

If you would like to find out more this website has a good introduction.

www.intellectual-property.gov.uk