

RISE 2026 Call for Applications

About RISE

RISE (Real Impact on Society and Environment) by U21 is an international competition showcasing student-led achievements and projects focused on sustainability and social innovation. RISE is designed to accelerate the scale and impact of student-led projects by connecting them with a network of experts from academia and industry.

Objective

The Vice Rectorate for International Affairs launches this internal call to select the projects that will represent Tecnológico de Monterrey and will subsequently be nominated to the international RISE 2026 competition, composed of students from Universitas 21 member universities.

What are the benefits?

- Financial support of USD \$2,000* for winning projects in the categories: Greatest Impact, Greatest Potential, Most Collaborative, and People's Choice Award for the most innovative project.
- Recognition through a certificate and an optional LinkedIn recommendation.
- Opportunities to connect with international students working on similar sustainability challenges in different contexts.
- Development of skills and mindset to communicate ideas effectively to an international audience.
- Experience in scaling social entrepreneurship or innovation ideas beyond small-scale local implementation to broader impact.

* If selected as a winner, the team must issue an invoice/receipt to U21 and have a bank account capable of receiving the prize transfer in USD.

TEC Internal Call – “First Round”

The first stage of this call will focus on selecting up to four projects to represent Tecnológico de Monterrey in the international competition:

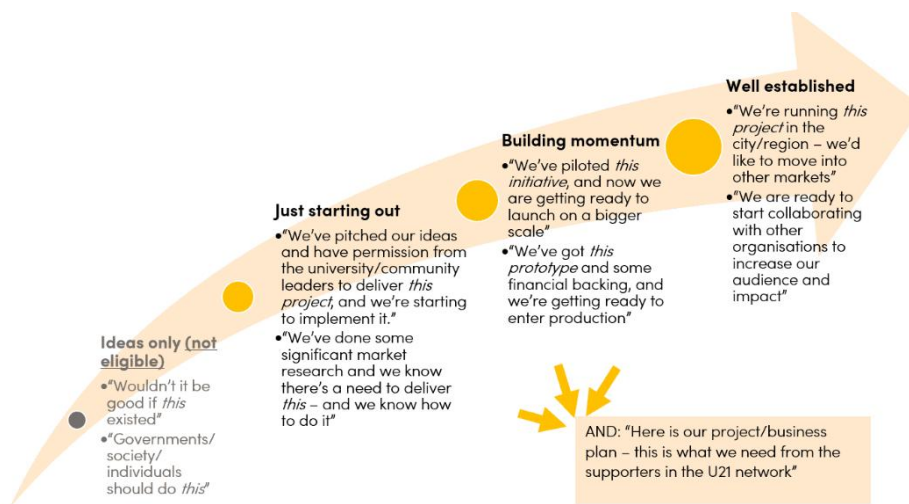
- Two projects composed exclusively of Tecnológico de Monterrey students.
- Two projects composed of Tecnológico de Monterrey students and students from a U21 member university. The list of consortium members can be consulted [here](#).

Projects selected in this first stage will have the opportunity to benefit from the Incubation and Acceleration Programs of the Entrepreneurship Institute of Tecnológico de Monterrey.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following requirements and criteria to apply to this first stage:

- Be an undergraduate student from any professional program at Tecnológico de Monterrey.
- Be a regularly enrolled student during the February–June 2026 semester.
- Not be under any academic or disciplinary probation.
- Projects may be individual or team-based, with up to 7 team members.
- The project must go beyond theory; the team must have taken concrete actions to turn the idea into reality. However, the project does not need to be a fully developed company or small business.



- The project must directly address at least one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For reference, see examples of previous projects in the [RISE Showcase 2024–25](#).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



How can I apply?

Each project must submit a single application file including:

1. **Executive Summary** (maximum 2 pages) including:
 - ✓ Project name and description
 - ✓ SDG(s) addressed
 - ✓ Project background
 - ✓ Current stage of the project
 - ✓ Results achieved (if applicable)
 - ✓ Vision for future impact
2. **Motivation Letter** (maximum 1 page) answering: Why does my project deserve to be selected as a representative of Tecnológico de Monterrey and a winner of the RISE competition?
3. **Curriculum Vitae** of each participant (if more than one team member).
4. **Video Pitch** (maximum 2 minutes) explaining and complementing the executive summary. The video must be uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted video (free format; no specific template required—just present the project clearly).

All documents must be compiled in the order listed above, in a single PDF file with a maximum size of 10 MB. The file name must follow this format: Project Name (1 word) + SDG number + Campus Example: Sunshine_7_Puebla. Once the file is ready, you must complete the online application form and upload the PDF file.

Application link: [Application Form](#)

Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 13, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

Evaluation Committee

Applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee composed of experts from Tecnológico de Monterrey. The Committee will select the projects to be nominated to U21 in accordance with the guidelines established in this call.

Results will be announced no later than **March 24, 2026**, via the official email account itesmvi@servicios.itesm.mx and on the website: <https://tec.mx/es/internacionalizacion/convocatoria-u21>

Important Dates

TEC Internal Call – First Round

Activity	Date
Opening of TEC call	February 16, 2026
Application deadline	March 13, 2026
TEC Evaluation Committee	March 24, 2026
Announcement of selected projects to be nominated	March 24, 2026

U21 RISE Call – Selected Projects

Activity	Date
Preparation of video for international RISE competition	March 24 – May 15, 2026
Submission of video to the Vice Rectorate for International Affairs	May 15, 2026
Nomination of selected projects to U21 by the Vice Rectorate for International Affairs	May 18, 2026
U21 nomination deadline	May 20, 2026
U21 Workshop for finalists	June 2026
U21 RISE Committee deliberation and announcement of winners	July 2026

Contact and Further Information

For more information about the competition, please visit: [RISE Showcase and Awards](#)

For specific questions or information not covered in this document, please contact the Vice Rectorate for International Affairs at: itesmvi@servicios.itesm.mx