ELLM Startup Initiative 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Information

1. What is ELLM Startup Initiative 2025?
    - ELLM Startup Initiative 2025 is a national event for students to explore AI and LLM technologies, develop entrepreneurial skills, cultivate startup ideas and create innovative solutions that bridge academia and industry.

2. Who can participate in ELLM Startup Initiative 2025?
    - The ELLM Startup Initiative 2025 is open to all full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students from both public and private universities in Malaysia, regardless of their background, field of study, or prior experience in startups or AI.

3. When and how is the competition conducted?
    - ELLM Startup Initiative 2025 comprises two stages: Preliminary Round and Final Round.
        - **Preliminary Round** (May 4 – May 11, 2025): The competition begins with the release of the problem statement on 4th of May. Participants will have one week to develop their solutions and submit them online via a designated submission form.

        - **Final Round** (May 18, 2025): Shortlisted teams from the Preliminary Round will advance to the Final Round, which will be held in person (Venue TBD).

4. What is the theme for ELLM Startup Initiative 2025?
    - The competition revolves around AI and LLM technologies, emphasizing their role in fostering entrepreneurial skills and transforming startup ideas into innovative industry solutions. The specific problem statement will be revealed at the start of the competition.

5. Do I need prior AI or entrepreneurial experience to participate?
    - The competition is designed to be an opportunity for learning and growth, and support from mentors will be available throughout the process to help you develop your skills and ideas.

Registration

1. How many members can be in a team to join the competition?
    - Each team can have **1 to a maximum of 5 members** to participate in the competition. Participants have the option to join solo or form a team, but all teams will compete under the same category.

2. Can team members be from different universities?
    - Yes, team members can be from any university and any year of study, as long as they fulfill the participant eligibility criteria.

3. Is there a registration fee for the competition?
    - Yes, each team is required to pay a **RM30** commitment fee to ensure dedicated participation throughout the competition.

4. How do I know the team registration is successful?
    - Once you have registered your team with all the required details,our organizing team will review your registration submission. After approval, we will send you an email confirming that your team has been successfully registered.

5. When does the registration open and what is the deadline for registration?
    - Registration will open on April 12, 2025 (Friday), and the deadline for registration is April 27, 2025 (Friday). However, registration may close earlier if the competition reaches its team limit.

6. What is the team limit for the competition and how the registration team is selected.
    - A maximum of 30 teams will be accepted into the competition. Teams will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the limit is reached, registration will close.

7. Can team members be substituted after registration?
    - No, once the team has been registered and the registration form has been submitted, team members cannot be substituted or changed. Please ensure that all team members are finalized before completing the registration process.

Competition

1. Can I bring a pre-existing project or startup to ELLM Startup Initiative 2025?
    - We generally encourage participants to start fresh with new startup ideas and projects during the competition, as it promotes fairness and innovation. However, if you have an existing idea or ongoing project that aligns with one of the problem statements, you may consider incorporating it.

2. How will the projects be judged and is there any judging criteria for the competition?
    - Yes, the projects will be judged based on a set of judging criterias that evaluates the innovation, feasibility, impact, and execution of the solution. You can refer to the general judging criteria in the handbook. Further details on the judging criteria with detailed scoring metrics will be provided during the opening and onboarding session.

3. Are there any limitations on the AI and LLM technologies we can use?
    - Participants can use any AI and LLM technologies. While open-source technologies are encouraged for their accessibility and fairness, paid or proprietary AI technologies may also be used. It's important to consider how the choice of technology may impact the scalability and sustainability of the startup idea. Be sure to clearly disclose all tools and technologies used during the submission.

4. What are the requirements for the final project submission in the Preliminary Round?
    - For the Preliminary Round submission, participants are required to submit a project deck (.pdf), along with a video presentation and a GitHub link to the source code. Please refer to the detailed **submission guidelines** in the competition handbook.

5. Can I make changes to my project after submitting the preliminary round?
    - Yes, you can make changes to your project submission as long as the submission deadline has not passed.You can edit your Google Form responses to update your submission until the deadline is reached.

6. Will there be mentorship or guidance available throughout the competition?
    - Yes, mentors will be available to assist participants in our **ELLM Startup Initiative 2025 Official Discord Channel**. Additionally, workshops and tech talks will be held to provide further support. Be sure to join it if you need further assistance or help.

7. Can I use a no-code or low-code platform to build my project for the ELLM Startup Initiative 2025?
    - You can use no-code or low-code platforms as long as they suit the needs of your project. However, please keep in mind that the technical aspect is one of the judging criteria. Ensure that your chosen platform can support the complexity and innovation required for the competition.

8. Can we submit multiple projects as a team?
    - Each team is only allowed to submit one project.If a team submits more than one project, only the first submission will be considered.

9. How can I stay updated with the latest announcements about the competition?
    - All the latest announcements about the competition will be shared on Universiti Malaya Startup Community (UMSCOM) Instagram, LinkedIn and **ELLM Startup Initiative 2025 Official Discord Channel**.

10. Is there any travel or accommodation support for finalists traveling to Kuala Lumpur for the final round?
    - Unfortunately, no support is provided for these expenses. Please note that finalists are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation for the final round.