What is BASES Challenge?

BASES Challenge is Stanford's most prestigious annual entrepreneurship competition, awarding $100,000 in prize money to Stanford-affiliated startups every year since 1997. Students and alumni enter their business ideas to compete in one of four categories: Consumer, Enterprise, Medical, and Social. The application process begins with an electronic written application and culminates in two rounds of live judging and mentorship opportunities. Past winners include Kiva, One Acre Fund, and Voltage Security.

Competition Timeline 2017

- **BASES Challenge Kickoff**
  Jan 17, 2017
  - BASES Challenge Kickoff event (featuring keynote speaker and demos from past winners).
  - Applications go live. Applicants are asked to submit a pitch deck and description of their venture.
- **Applications due; prescreening round.**
  February - March 2017
  - 80 semifinalists are selected after a pre screening round.
- **First Round Judging**
  Apr 10 - 11, 2017
  - 80 Semifinalists are invited to First Round Judging.
  - Each semifinalist team will pitch to a panel of judges composed of venture capitalists and industry experts in their category.
- **Mentorship for Finalists**
  Apr 11 - May 5, 2017
  - 50 finalists are chosen based on First Round Judging results.
  - Finalists are invited to workshops and office hours with mentors from venture capital and industry.
- **BASES Challenge Finale**
  May 8, 2017
  - Final round judging of finalists to determine winners.
  - Public showcase of all finalist projects.
  - Public awards ceremony and keynote address.

FAQ

Who is eligible to enter?

At least one member of your team must be a current Stanford student (undergraduate or graduate), alumni, or professor. The Stanford affiliate must be an active contributing member to the team beyond an advisory role.

How is the competition structured?

There are four categories: Consumer, Enterprise, Biotech/Medical, and Social.

What is the breakdown in prize money?

Overall
$25,000 Best Overall Venture (Chosen from Category Winners)

Consumer Category Prizes
$15,000 Best Consumer Venture
$7,500 Consumer Runner-Up

Enterprise Category Prizes
$15,000 Best Enterprise Venture
$7,500 Enterprise Runner-Up

Biotech/Medtech Category Prizes
$15,000 Best Biotech/Medtech Venture
$7,500 Biotech/Medtech Runner-Up

Social Category Prizes
$15,000 Best Social Venture
$7,500 Social Runner-Up

Are there funding limits on which teams can enter?

No.

Does BASES Challenge take equity, or require that the prize money be spent in a certain way?

No, we do not take any equity. The prize money is a grant for you to start your venture. We do not require that you spent the money in any particular area, although it is intended to serve as seed funding and be used appropriately.

Do all of my team members need to be present at each judging round?

No, but you need at least one team member to pitch at each live judging round. All pitches will be held at Stanford, and we do not allow remote pitches via Skype.

What are the judging criteria, and who are the judges?

Teams will be assessed based on the sections outlined in the application. Each written application will be read by three venture capitalists and BASES alumni. Teams that advance to the live pitching rounds will be judged by venture capitalists and other investors or industry professionals.

What happened to E-Challenge, Social-E Challenge, and Product Showcase?

We have combined our three past competitions into one, comprehensive startup competition. Now, instead of three separate competitions with distinct timelines and prize amounts, all teams will be entered into the same pool, but there will be separate prizes for best overall venture and best social venture.

Where can I learn more?

You can find out more information by going to our website, bases.stanford.edu or checking out our Facebook page. If you have additional questions, please contact baseschallenge@gmail.com.