

Student Innovation Expo & Challenge 2026

Event Details

Event Date: Wednesday, 28th October 2026 | **Time:** 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Venue: University of Colombo

Theme: Advancing an Inclusive Future through AI, Sustainability, and Innovation

1. Eligibility & Team Composition

- Who can apply: Registered undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University of Colombo.
- Team Size: Individual participants or teams. For on-site demonstrations, a maximum of 3 members are allowed at the booth.
- Composition: Interdisciplinary and inter-faculty teams are highly encouraged. Teams must nominate a leader.

2. Innovation Categories

1. Digital Technology & Smart Systems
2. Sustainability, Environment & Built Environment
3. Health, Wellbeing & Community Health
4. Social Innovation, Education & Media
5. Business, Policy & Governance
6. Creative & Interdisciplinary Concepts

3. Submission Requirements

- Innovation Summary (Max 300 words)
- Technical & Booth Needs
- Supporting Material (Photos, renderings, diagrams, etc.)

4. Key Dates to Remember

Milestone	Date
Applications Open	Friday, 8th May 2026
Submission Deadline	Sunday, 16th August 2026
Announcement of Finalists	Monday, 28th September 2026
The Expo & Challenge	Wednesday, 28th October 2026

5. Event Day Schedule (October 28)

Time	Activity	Description
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Arrival & Setup	Registration, booth setup, and technical checks.
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Briefing	Final briefing for exhibitors.
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Opening & Pitching	Opening address & 60-second Elevator Pitches.
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Expo & Jury Rounds	Judges evaluate booths. Attendees cast "Most Popular" votes.
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Networking	Scores are tabulated; participants network with industry guests.

6. Booth Preparation & What to Bring

- Provided by Organizers: Exhibition table, chairs, booth label, display space, and access to electricity.
- What You Must Bring: Your own laptop/devices, chargers/extension cords, printed posters, the prototype/model, and any specialized equipment.
- Booth Pitch: Be ready to deliver a ~3-minute pitch covering: (1) The Problem, (2) Your Solution, (3) Uniqueness, (4) Beneficiaries, and (5) Scalability.

7. Judging Criteria

Criterion	Weight (%)
Originality and Innovativeness	20%
Relevance and Problem Significance	15%
Technical Quality / Conceptual Soundness	15%
Feasibility and Practicality	15%
Impact and Value	15%
Quality of Presentation and Demonstration	10%
Interdisciplinary or Translational Potential	10%

8. Awards

- Category Awards: Best Innovation Award, 1st Runner-up, and 2nd Runner-up for each category.
- General Award: Most Popular Innovation Award

9. Code of Conduct & Safety Guidelines

- Safety: Ensure electrical setups are safe. No hazardous materials allowed without prior approval.
- Originality: Work must be substantially student-led and original. Plagiarism leads to disqualification.
- Professionalism: Teams must stay at their booth during judging, remain respectful, and avoid disrupting others.

More information: <https://cmb.ac.lk/ucic-2026>

Submission form: <https://forms.gle/PsGtkLPiHsbhYo4SA>