



Community Partner Guide for the Global Community Challenge YYC

Fall 2023

Welcome and thanks for your interest in participating as a Community Partner for our Global Community Challenge YYC!

The Global Community Challenge YYC is a hands-on program that challenges students from the University of Calgary and from UCalgary's exchange partner universities around the world to work in cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural teams t from home

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August 20, 2023:

[GCC Community Partner Challenge submission form](#)

Who can be a community partner?

We handpick community partners based on the organization's focus on local, intercultural, and global issues. Is.1 Tw 1.893w C

What is your role as a community partner?

As a community partner, we ask that you identify a challenge for 1 or 2 student team(s) to develop a solution – ideally a real-world challenge that your organization is currently facing. Remember the team is working virtually, with student participants from around the world so the challenge cannot require tasks on the ground. You will support your student team with insights, context, and feedback to ensure they understand the challenge as they develop a solution.

As a community partner, you are expected to:

- Actively participate in Zoom discussion meetings with your student team, for a total of 15-20 hours during the Challenge from late September to late November. We estimate four to five meetings lasting around 1.5 hours each.
 - 1 initial Zoom meeting for introductions and to learn about the organization and the issue/challenge they are facing.
 - Follow-up emails and phone calls to answer questions and provide clarification, as needed, as your team develops their solution.
 - A meeting during the “Feedback Round” to provide feedback on the solution thus far and to help prepare for the final presentations.
 - A debrief meeting following the completion of the competition so the student team can provide you with their solution and answer any questions you may have.
- Respond to your team’s emails and/or phone calls as soon as possible but no more than 3 working days.
- Provide constructive feedback to your team from a place of care and concern for their success and well-being. [The Centre for Mentoring Excellence shares](#) the following advice for giving quality feedback:
 - Being transparent about the value of feedback.
 - Providing feedback in a timely manner, so that it remains relevant.
 - Consider the perspectives and feelings of your team and balance negative comments with positive comments.
 - Provide sincere feedback. If positive comments are false, this undermines credibility.
 - Keep it two-way – have a conversation, not a lecture. Accept feedback from your team.

- Join the Global Community Challenge Finals event to see whether your team's presentation has been selected as one of the top 5. At the final, the top 5 teams will share their video presentations and participate in a Q&A with judges during which winning teams will be announced!
- Participate in a final debrief meeting with your team after the competition and receive any work and materials generated by them.

Your consistent availability is a key component for the success of this initiative. If something arises and you need another colleague from your organization to take over the role as a Community Partner representative during the challenge, please [reach out to your manager](#) or [contact us](#).

What is the difference between a community partner and a team mentor?

The main difference between the community partner and team mentor is that the community partner is the “client” who defines the challenge and offers feedback on the development of the solution and how it will or will not meet their needs. The goal for the team is to offer the community partner a workable, innovative solution that meets the needs of their organization. Community partners can guide the students, but they are not expected to address team dynamics, differing levels of participation within the team or interpersonal challenges among team members. The team mentor is available to provide strong, effective guidance to the student team(s) as they explore the challenge set by their community partner. The team mentor is expected to support the team working effectively together, encourage full participation of all team members and communicate with the UCalgary team if issues arise. The Global Community Challenge is meant to reflect real-world working dynamics, and we hope all students will gain new teamwork skills. The mentor is a supportive, coaching role, and is not expected to offer direct solutions to the challenge set by the community partner.

Other areas to which mentors may lend support include reviewing the rubric with the team, suggesting areas for further exploration or research, and reminding teams to ensure their solutions fit within the parameters a community partner has communicated would be feasible and effective within the organization.

What are the overarching goals of this challenge? Something to keep in mind...

For us, the competition component is secondary! It is not just about who wins this challenge, it is really about the process and the learnings that students gain along the way to support community and help tackle real-world challenges. They will work in interdisciplinary teams with students from different countries and cultures, learning to see things through different lenses, gaining a better understanding of themselves, discovering more about their strengths and weaknesses and how to work effectively with others.

We are hoping to explore ways to make the proposed solutions and contributions of student teams sustainable for our community partners. If you have suggestions for how we can continue to work together, please do not hesitate to reach out.

How will you get connected with your student team(s)?

In their application, students will select their top two or three community challenges based on their interests, knowledge and skills. Individual students will be placed into teams of 5 or 6 with the goal of creating cross-disciplinary and multi-cultural groups to address each challenge. Once the teams are assembled, you will be matched with the team(s) that selected your challenge.

We will connect you with your student team and the team mentor by email to facilitate introductions on Sept 25th. Please follow 6.9 (e)-EMC /P 2.8

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Global Challenge YYC Community Partner Timeline

Date(s)	Milestone or task	Approx. volume of emails/week
Aug 23	Deadline for Community Partner Challenges to be submitted – Final Details	Moderate
Aug 24	Community Partner Challenges go live on Global Community Challenge website for student viewing.	Low
Sep 22	Students receive acceptance emails.	Low

This criterion was very well addressed	4
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Questions The team was able to address questions that were within the reasonable scope of their project	
Overall Comments	
FINAL SCORE	

Additional resources:

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