



Terms & Conditions Youth Startup Award 2026

Context

As part of the **Entrepreneurship Awards**, an initiative of [Unicorn Factory Lisboa](#), whose main objective is to bring the ecosystem together to recognize the work, success and achievements of entrepreneurs and startups operating in Portugal, the **Youth Startup Award** is in the fourth edition in 2026.

Article 1

Scope

The **Youth Startup Award** aims to recognize a startup founded by university students, with significant operations in Portugal, that stands out for its innovation and unique approach to solving a market problem or need.

Article 2

Goals

In addition to the above, this initiative also has the following objectives:

- a) Promote young and university entrepreneurship.
- b) Support and foster innovation among young people and university students.
- c) Foster and promote an entrepreneurial spirit.

Article 3

Eligible

1. All *startups* with relevant operations in Portugal can apply or be nominated for the **Youth Startup Award**, if they have university founders and stand out for their innovation and way of solving the problem/need they have identified in the market.
2. University founder means young people who meet the following conditions:
 - a) young individuals up to the age of 30.

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- b) who are currently attending university or who will have attended university at least in the academic year 2025 / 2026 or who will have attended university in the academic year 2024 / 2025 - university attendance is a bachelor's degree, a master's degree (including the preparation of theses) and a doctorate.
 - b) about the criteria indicated in subparagraph a) and b), it must apply to at least 50 % of the number of founders.
3. A *startup* is an innovative entity that incorporates technology and with a scalable business model.

Article 4

Application process

1. Applications and nominations must be submitted using the appropriate forms available on the Entrepreneurship Awards page in Unicorn Factory Lisboa website.
2. The nomination period runs from July until 18th September 2026 (23:59), and the application period runs from July until 23rd September 2026 (23:59).
3. The organization is not responsible for any loss or non-receipt of applications, even if this is the result of network interruptions or failures or the website created for the purpose or the platform that use for receiving the applications.
4. The organization reserves the right to unilaterally extend the deadline for nominations and/or submission of applications by means of a notice published on the Unicorn Factory Lisboa website or social networks.
5. The nominated *startups* will be contacted by the organization to confirm their intention to apply for the **Youth Startup Award**.
6. If the nominated *startups* wish to proceed with their applications, they must fill in the application form available on the Entrepreneurship Awards page on Unicorn Factory Lisboa website by the deadline for submitting applications.
7. Each application must indicate a representative who will act on behalf of the startup in dealings with the organization, serving as the point of contact and spokesperson throughout the process. This representative must be one of the founders/CEOs of the applying startup.
8. The contact details on the application form must be active and up-to-date throughout the duration of the Initiative.



Article 5

Application evaluation

1. The applications will be subject to a prior analysis to verify the formal eligibility conditions of the *startups* applying.
2. Eligible applications will be subject to a pre-selection phases, with the aim of selecting the *startups* that will go through to the final phase.
3. This evaluation is based on the information provided in the application form and will be carried out by the team of Unicorn Factory Lisboa.
4. Applications that do not meet the conditions set out in Article 3, or that do not provide sufficient information to allow them to be analysed, will be informed by e-mail that they will not proceed to evaluation.
5. The shortlisted *startups* will be invited to take part in an evaluation session to choose the three finalists for the prize.
6. Once these preliminary stages have been completed, the finalist entrepreneurs will be subject to a public jury session, held as part of the *Entrepreneurship Awards*, in October 2026 with a view to determining the winning *startup* and awarding the prize.
7. This jury session will consist of a presentation, which should be supported by digital or other means that the entrepreneurs consider relevant.
8. This session will consider the following criteria:
 - a) Innovation / differentiation of the response to the identified problem
 - b) Feasibility of the proposed solution
 - c) Quality of the team
 - d) Stage of development of the idea / project
 - e) Growth potential and scalability of the proposed solution.
9. The jury referred to in the previous point will be made up of members of Unicorn Factory Lisboa, and external elements invited by them for this purpose.

Article 6

Awards

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1. The **Youth Startup Award** takes the form of a cash prize of €2.500 (two thousand five hundred euros).
2. The prize money to be paid to the winning *startup* will have to be supported by a tax document, in accordance with Portuguese legislation.
3. To pay for the prizes indicated, please send the IBAN to which the bank transfer should be made.

Article 7

Confidentiality

The parties undertake to keep confidential the content of all information to which they have access under this initiative, including intellectual property and industrial property, even after the end of this initiative, except to the extent strictly necessary for the implementation of this initiative and what is strictly necessary for the dissemination and promotion of the program.

Article 8

Data protection

1. The protection of candidates' privacy and personal data is of great importance to Unicorn Factory Lisboa
2. Entities that register for this initiative by filling in the application form are accepting Unicorn Factory's Privacy Policy, which can be found on our website at <https://unicornfactorylisboa.com/privacy/>.

Article 9

Final provisions

1. The organization reserves the right to amend these regulations, informing the candidates of the changes.
2. Situations not covered by these regulations will be duly analysed and defined by the organization.
3. Participation in this initiative implies express acceptance by applicants of the terms and conditions of these Terms & Conditions.