

2020 Competition Rules

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION AWARD

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1 General

1.1 About Ron Johnston

The Professor Ron Johnston Prize in Humanitarian Innovation commemorates the work of Professor Ron Johnston, the Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Innovation (ACIIC) at the University of Sydney. The Australian Centre for Innovation was established by Professor Johnston in 1992, originally in the form of Australian Centre for Innovation and International Competitiveness (ACIIC Ltd) and was led by him until 2019.

Professor Johnston has worked for more than fifty years in pioneering better understanding of the ways that science and technology contribute to economic and social development, the characteristics of the global knowledge economy and the processes and culture of innovation. His special skills were based on the breadth of his knowledge across technologies and his ability to integrate them into a socio-economic and environmental context.

The mission of the Australian Centre for Innovation has been to “address the challenges of the future through innovation”.

2 Humanitarian Innovation Awards

The Humanitarian Innovation Awards are made up of two annual events.

More details about Event two can be found on the Humanitarian Innovation Awards Website <https://humanitarianinnovationawards.com.au/>

2.1 Event One – The Pitch

Event one is the “Professor Ron Johnston Humanitarian Innovation Award”. It is an annual national prize aimed at university students, awarded for an excellent technologically-based innovation that enhances human welfare through engagement with a specific target group of people in need. Participants can select a current and real-world problem and present a solution to it. Submissions can be made during over the course of a month and take the form of written and video.

2.2 Event Two – The Hackathon

Event two is the “RedR Ron Johnston Rapid Response Prize”, aka “Humanitarian Hackathon”. It takes place after Event One and is a weekend contest located in Sydney, NSW. Participants will be presented with a real and current problem and must work within time constraints to develop solutions that are practical, technically innovative and effective in real time.

3 Event One Details

3.1 The Prize

A number of finalists for this Award will be named based on the quality of the entries received. All finalists will be offered a place in Event Two of the Humanitarian Innovation Awards: RedR Ron Johnston Rapid Response Prize (aka “Humanitarian Hackathon”) in July 2020 and offered travel stipends to assist in attendance. The stipend can include airline flights and overnight accommodation in Sydney as needed for those student finalists who are based outside of Sydney and request a stipend.

In summary, finalists for Event One will receive

- Automatic entry into Event Two – RedR Ron Johnston Rapid Response Prize (aka “the Humanitarian Hackathon”)
- Travel stipends will be made available to selected finalists to assist with attendance at the Humanitarian Hackathon in July 2020.

One of the finalists will be selected as the Winner of Event 1 and will receive a cash prize totalling \$2500. The awards committee is also arranging student internships with leading Australian humanitarian engineering firms for the members of the winning team.

In summary, the main award for Event One will include

- The Professor Ron Johnston Prize in Humanitarian Innovation Award
- Cash prize totalling \$2,500
- Prestigious internships

3.2 Entry and Eligibility

The Professor Ron Johnston Humanitarian Innovation Award will be open to:

1. National and International university students domiciled in Australia and studying at any Australian university, for the entirety of 2020;
2. Entries are limited to undergraduate students.
3. Entries must be made by a group of 2 to 4 individuals working as a team;
4. Teams must include strong STEM capabilities and it is recommended to include members studying for degrees in technology or engineering programs. The reason for this preference is because of the emphasis on creating an entry that is focused on delivering a humanitarian innovation of a technological nature;

5. It is recommended that teams include appropriate non – STEM skills as would be needed to create, deliver and implement the innovative solution;
6. Entrants will be required to provide evidence of their eligibility under these rules as a part of their submission. Example of evidence is a university ID card.
7. An individual may only participate in a single team. She/he cannot work across multiple teams.

3.3 Focus areas identified in the proposal

To be considered for the prize, entrants must put forward a submission in which they:

1. Identify by research, a real problem in a humanitarian context (post disaster, fragile state, development assistance or otherwise);
2. Preferably, the problem will have a connection to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) with consideration to the [Equator Principles](#) for new technology in developing countries.
3. Problems and solutions that focus on needs which do not fit conventional commercial finance driven markets and are therefore “orphans” to traditional market solutions will be favoured;
4. Especially propose solutions aimed to alleviate or address needs of disadvantaged communities or
5. Address social groups that may be overlooked by traditional engineering and technology projects;

3.4 Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria will be the degree to which the humanitarian innovation:

The Problem (The Challenge) (weight = 10%)

1. Addresses a real and pressing problem;
2. Analyses the context of the problem and develops a practical solution for the target community or persons;

The Solution (weight = 50%)

3. Uses appropriate engineering skills, knowhow and technologies;
4. Is novel, original and innovative;
5. Is environmentally sound and sustainable;
6. Is technologically sound, cost effective and workable in proposed environment;

The Evaluation Metrics (weight = 10%)

7. Includes an evidence-based mechanism to assess the value/efficacy of their innovation;
8. Demonstrates familiarity with humanitarian quality measures, such as the Sphere Standards (<https://www.spherestandards.org/>)

The Benefits (weight = 30%)

9. Must consider the vulnerable, including disability, diversity & gender protection
10. Must consider the number of people helped and the alleviation impact (initial severity/improvement of condition) of the solution.

In making their evaluation, the Judges will take account of the appropriateness of the team composition.

An actual demonstration or other proof of practicality of the solution will be highly considered.

3.5 Event One Submissions

Submissions open at 9am on Wednesday, 4 March 2020, and close at midnight Sunday, 19 April 2020. Timing is in AEST.

Submissions are to be made ONLY through the link that will be published on 4 March 2020.

Only one submission for each team will be accepted. Teams are not to submit multiple entries.

Submissions must be concise and demonstrate capacity to market an idea effectively. While there is no restriction on the scale of the submission, entrants should consider the judges as clients who expect to be able to grasp the merits of the ideas quickly.

Judges will have regard to the quality of submissions across all of the criteria.

3.5.1 The submission is to be made up of

1. Entrant Team details - refer below.
2. A precis of the problem and solution, of up to 100 words.
3. A 3 – 4 minute video (aka The Pitch)
4. Written submission with details, data and diagrams etc., which define the Problem Statement & Proposed Solution
5. Group photo of team
6. Acceptance of terms and conditions.

Further guidance of submission includes:

3.5.2 Entrant details

- Name of team
- Full details for each team member can include:
 - Full name
 - Role of each member
 - Address for mail and email
 - Contact phone number
 - University
 - Faculty, School and/Department
 - Name of Degree in which they are enrolled and current level;
 - Evidence of the currency of such enrolment.
- Acceptance of User Agreement, Terms & Conditions and IP Licence (refer below)

3.5.3 Pitch Video – the Pitch

The judges will place emphasis on the Pitch Video. Whatever form the applicant elects for the Pitch, teams are advised to ensure that their Pitch is clear and definitive in describing their proposed problem and solution and in addressing the Evaluation Criteria, all within the nominated time limits.

- Must address all the Evaluation Criteria
- Must be between 3 – 4 minutes
- Can be any video format the entrant team deems appropriate, such as presentation, speaking slideshow, animation, etc;
- Video file must be loaded as instructed
- File naming convention is “team name.mp4” e.g. “Team Awesome.mp4”

Written Submission

Written submission takes two formats.

A 100-word precis of the problem and solution is required as part of the submission.

For each criteria noted under Section 3.4 “Evaluation Criteria”, teams are welcome to provide further written information with tables, diagrams, photos, etc, which clearly define the problem and demonstrates their solution, and which addresses each and every criteria and sub-criteria listed, having due regard to the indicated weightings.

3.5.4 Team Photo

- To be a single image to represent your team participation
- Pixel size must be no greater than that specified in the application form

- File naming convention is “team name.xxx” e.g. “Team Awesome.png”

3.6 Event One Due dates

Submission website will be accessible from 9am on Wednesday, 4 Mar 2020, and will close midnight Sunday, 19 April 2020. Time is in AEST.

4 Event Two details

4.1 The Prize

A single team will be awarded:

- AU\$5000 cash prize
- Recognition in various publications and media

4.2 Entry and Eligibility

The competitions related to the Professor Ron Johnston Humanitarian Innovation Award will be open to:

1. National and international university students domiciled in Australia and studying at any Australian university.
2. Entries are limited to undergraduate students.
3. Entrants will be required to provide evidence of their eligibility under these rules as a part of their application for entry. Example of evidence is a university ID card.
4. An individual may only participate in a single team. She/he cannot work across multiple teams.
5. Entry must be as an individual.

4.3 Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria of presentation will include, the degree to which the humanitarian innovation developed during the hackathon:

1. Addresses the problem(s) set for consideration;
2. Uses engineering skills, humanitarian knowhow and technologies;
3. Is original, novel and inventive
4. Is environmentally sound and sustainable;
5. Is practical including in respect to cost, for the target community or persons;
6. Is deliverable by an organisation such as RedR;
7. Considers the effects of vulnerable populations such as gender, disability, elderly, very young.

4.4 Judging

A judging panel of eminent members from the Australian community with experience in the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been

established by The Warren Centre. A formal assessment methodology will be used.

No discussion of any kind will be entered into after presentation by entrants nor will further clarifications be sought by the judges prior to making their decision.

The decision of the Judging panel is final and not appealable in any way.

4.5 Intellectual Property

The entrants retain ownership of their designs.

The entrants licence the Warren Centre and the University of Sydney to use and modify for use their photographs, video and any written content as a part of promoting the program Awards and the winners.

4.6 Key Dates

The Hackathon commences on Friday 24 July 2020. It will run over Saturday and Sunday, 25 – 26 July 2020.

5 Judging

A judging panel of eminent Australians with experience in the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been established by The Warren Centre. A formal assessment methodology will be used.

No discussion of any kind will be entered into after submission by the Entrant nor will further clarifications be sought by the judging Panel prior to making their decision.

The decision of the Judging panel is final and not appealable in any way.

6 Intellectual Property

The entrants retain ownership of their designs.

The entrants licence the Warren Centre to use and modify for use their photograph, video and written content as a part of promoting the program Award and the winners.