

PhD Open Days@IST, 4 and 5 November 2024

Pitch Competition Session: November 5th, 15h00-16h30, Técnico Innovation Center (TIC)

Goals of the competition:

- Stimulate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship
- Emphasize the value of the Perfect Pitch speech
- Stress importance of oral communication and (virtual) public speaking
- Stimulate good performance under pressure
- Stimulate students to think about the bigger picture and application areas
- Empower students to lead

Who can apply:

- Students currently enrolled in any of the doctoral programs of IST that have submitted their **application** for the Pitch Competition **until October 21st** through the Application Form found at the event's web site.

General framework of the competition

- Up to a maximum of 20 participants will compete (if the number of applicants exceeds 20, preference will be given to those who have been enrolled in the PhD the longest)
- The selected participants will be announced before **October 25th**
- The selected participants must be on location at least 15 minutes before the competition starts
- The Pitch Competition presentation rules are:
 - Slides presentation
 - 3 minutes pitch duration
- The pitch should cover the:
 - Problem/Opportunity: what is the real-life problem addressed?
 - Proposed Solution: what is unique in the proposed approach?
 - Impact: what will be the impact of this work if successful?

Evaluation criteria

- A panel of judges will evaluate and judge the pitches on the basis of:
 - Slides quality and information content
 - Substance: clarity and persuasiveness of the argument presented
 - Delivery: attention to tone, volume, pronunciation and pace
 - Non-verbal communication
 - Timing: pitches will be cut off after 180 seconds
- The judgment will be expressed in a scale of 1 to 4, as follows:
 - 4 = Excellent presentation on all counts
 - 3 = Very good presentation with minor issues in one or more evaluation areas
 - 2 = Pitch can be significantly improved but is satisfactory overall
 - 1 = Pitch is incomplete and severely lacking in one or more evaluation aspects
- Judges will complete their scoring after the last contestant delivers the pitch

- The final score for each contestant is calculated by summing up each individual score attributed by the judges
- The winner of the Pitch Competition is the contestant that receives the higher final score
- In case of a draw between several contestants, the lowest score received by each of these contestants is sequentially removed until the draw has been eliminated
- The winner, second and third places will be announced at the end of the Pitch Competition Session

Prizes

- First place: 500 €, equivalent to the administrative cost of the thesis submission at the Post-Graduation Area, plus 250 € credit to be used on Técnico+ courses (5 years validity).
- Two honourable mentions: 250 €, equivalent to 50% of the administrative cost of the thesis submission at the Post-Graduation Area, plus 250 € credit to be used on Técnico+ courses (5 years validity).

Date, time and location of the competition

- November 5th, 15h00, Técnico Innovation Center (TIC)