



# YES20 Competitions

## Celebrating 25 years of ingenuity

The Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES) is an innovative global competition developed to raise awareness among postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers of how ideas from science and engineering can be commercialised. This is the 25th cohort and in that time over 5,943 early career researchers have taken part.

Teams, united by a dedication to their subject, curiosity, enthusiasm and a desire to learn, attempt to deploy novel science and engineering to address societal challenges such as the ageing population, sustainable food production, global warming and driverless cars. In this way, they develop a business plan for a start-up company based on a hypothetical but plausible idea during an intense three-day workshop.

ASTI is offering a scholarship for two teams (consisting of four or five members) to participate in this innovative competition taking place online 10-12 March.

Your idea should not be based on your research. As you will learn, disclosure of confidential information can prevent patenting. We would suggest your idea be based on real science that is in the public domain, while ensuring that the product development is fictitious, so that problems regarding confidentiality can be avoided. Your idea must fall into one of the themes:

- climate change - reducing agricultural GHG emissions and developing climate resilient crops
- digital tools to measure and interpret real-time in field/on farm data for improved decision making
- improved weed, disease and insect control
- improving biodiversity in a farmed landscape
- precision farming technologies (eg sensors, UAVs, agri-bots, imaging, satellites)
- reduction of water, energy and chemical inputs in food production
- sustainable liquid fuel production
- technologies for sustainable soils management
- technologies that could be deployed in smallholder agriculture
- urban agriculture



### Organisers

YES20 is organised in partnership with The University of Nottingham's Haydn Green Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HGI), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK), Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst (SBC) and Syngenta.

### Participants

PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from any university based in Malaysia. You will be competing directly with other universities in the UK.

### Prizes

Finalists will have an opportunity to compete for a prize fund of £15K.

### Timelines

- 1 March**  
Submit a simple business idea aligned with the theme stated.
- 10 - 12 March**  
Attend online "plant, microbial and environment" workshop (9am-5pm GMT)
- 23 April**  
Attend online Final (9am-5pm GMT)

**YES** Unleash your ingenuity  
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS SCHEME  
[www.yescompetitions.co.uk](http://www.yescompetitions.co.uk)



**To Participate**  
Please register and submit your "business idea" here:-  
<https://forms.gle/Ss1kBUMZEyewRBAT8>  
or visit  
<https://www.asti.org.my/yes/>

### Outcomes

- Benefits of taking part in YES:
- think creatively to produce innovative solutions to major challenges
  - develop enterprise skills
  - collaborate with peers and industry experts, developing your networking skills
  - cultivate business acumen
  - discover how to communicate research with impact to diverse audiences
  - gain project management skills in the context of business planning
  - create new knowledge
  - learn about ethical, legal and health and safety aspects
  - become a team player as well as fostering mentoring/supervisory skills and
  - understand how funding is sourced and managed.



### Who we are?

ASTI is a non-governmental and non-profit organization (NGO) working towards empowering young people interest in science through discovery. Please refer to our website [www.asti.org.my](http://www.asti.org.my) for more information regarding our projects.