

GSEC Rules & Eligibility

Requirements	Additional Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from any academic institution worldwide 	<p>Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible. Multidisciplinary teams highly encouraged.</p> <p>To find a team or team members, become a fan of GSEC on Facebook and post on the Discussions page.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teams members must be currently matriculated university students at the time of GSEC Week. 	<p>Teams may have non-student team members, such as advisors and observers, but non-student team members are <u>not</u> permitted to present at the GSEC Week events.</p> <p>If non-student team members want to attend GSEC Week events, they will be charged a flat fee to participate and will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only registered participants may participate in GSEC Week events. 	<p>In addition to covering their own costs of participating, non-student team members or participants will be required to register for GSEC Week events.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only student team members are eligible to earn prize money. 	<p>No payments (travel scholarships or prizes) will be awarded to non-students. Partial travel scholarships may be available for teams from low, lower-middle, and upper middle income¹ countries.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum number of team members allowed to participate in GSEC Week is four (4). 	<p>If a team wishes to have more than four team members participate in GSEC Week, the team will be responsible for covering the costs of each additional team member beyond four to participate in the GSEC events, as described for non-student team members.</p> <p>GSEC teams typically consist of 2-4 students and individuals are eligible as a "team."</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSEC plans must quantify and clearly demonstrate a Social Return on Investment (SROI) and assess the business' social impact 	<p>GSEC plans may demonstrate an environmental or "triple bottom-line". Teams are highly encouraged to provide a social impact assessment of their business idea.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business plans must be for low, lower-middle, and upper middle income² countries. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private business or a public - private partnerships are eligible. 	<p>Plans must generate revenue, clearly explain the revenue sources, and demonstrate financial sustainability.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business plan may be for a business that will be implemented by people other than the team members. 	<p>Students must have an ownership stake in the business or the potential for equity or employment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business plans for an existing business are eligible under two conditions: 	<p>1) No third party/outside financing allowed (principals have only used their own money); 2) Total company revenues do not exceed U.S.\$500,000</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One business plan per team. 	<p>Teams may participate in other competitions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The same business plan may not be resubmitted in GSEC. 	<p>Teams or team members may reapply to GSEC each year.</p>

¹ Country income classification is based on the [World Bank country group classifications](#)

² Country income classification is based on the [World Bank country group classifications](#)

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Guidelines

- The authors of the business plan will retain all rights to the plan regarding its use at all times prior to and following the competition except as stated below.
- Due to the nature of the competition, the GSEC organizers will not ask judges, reviewers, staff or the audience to agree to or sign non-disclosure statements for any participant.
- All public sessions of GSEC, including but not limited to oral presentations and question/answer sessions, are open to the public at large. Any and all of these public sessions may be broadcast to interested persons through media which may include radio, television and the Internet. Any data or information discussed or divulged in public sessions by entrants should be considered information that will likely enter the public realm, and entrants should not assume any right of confidentiality in any data or information discussed, divulged or presented in these sessions.
- The organizers of the GSEC may make photocopies, photographs, videotapes and/or audiotapes of the presentations including the business plan and other documents, charts or material prepared for use in presentation at the GSEC. Students retain all proprietary rights.
- GSEC may use the materials in any book or other printed materials and any videotape or other medium that it may produce, provided that any profits earned from the sale of such items is used by GSEC to defray the costs of future Competitions.
- The GSEC organizers have non-exclusive world rights in all languages, and in all media, to use or to publish the materials in any book, other printed materials, videotapes or other medium, and to use the materials in future editions thereof and derivative products.
- Any team with concerns regarding intellectual property, copyright, or patent confidentiality is strongly encouraged to either contact their University's intellectual property office (for University-developed discoveries) or competent legal counsel (for non-University related discoveries). The University of Washington, the Global Business Center, the Foster School of Business, and the organizers of the competition are not responsible for any proprietary information and/or intellectual property included in a submitted business plan.