



FAQ

- 1. Q: How many members are there in each team? Is there a minimum and/or maximum number?**
A: Minimum 3, maximum 5
- 2. Q: Are international students allowed to participate?**
A: Yes – on the condition that the international students will be available and present to participate in the final jury in June. In other words, they must participate in the challenge from start to finish. In addition, please note that in terms of the potential disbursement of prize money, this cannot be done with a university that is not an official partner-school of the competition.
- 3. Q: Is the prize money given directly to students?**
A: No. All prize money is disbursed directly to the partner-school in question, which will then disburse the funds to their students according to its own internal policies. (For example, some schools will deduct the amount from tuition fees for the following academic year while other schools will wire the money directly to the student's bank account).
- 4. Q: Who will our coaches be? And where will they be located?**
A: Each finalist-team will have two coaches: an internal and an external coach. First, the internal coach is an expert in a professional domain directly related to the project in question and whose main objective is to provide incubation assistance (mainly technical and strategic). This coach is typically based in the same country as the finalist-team. Second, the external coach is the competition coordinator, based in France, whose main mission is to prepare each team for the final jury.
- 5. Q: How often will coaching sessions/meetings take place? And how?**
A: With the external coach this will be 30-45 minutes per month (February to May) with fixed dates and times.
With the internal coach this will vary from month to month. It will largely depend on several factors, such as the specific needs of the team/project, the availabilities of the coach and her/his team, etc. On average, it's a question of 3-4 hours per month.
How? All coaching sessions take place via a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel or, when possible, in person.
- 6. Q: Does everything have to be in English?**
A: In terms of the final project report, the presentation at the final jury and the promo video – yes, English is obligatory. For the coaching sessions, it will most likely be in the local language with the internal coach and in English with the external coach.
- 7. Q: What kinds of projects are usually accepted to compete in the challenge?**
A: We welcome projects related to every sector of the Smart City domain: education, the environment, work, health care and social services, government and public services, urban management, culture and tourism, transportation and mobility, telecommunications, e-commerce and retail, etc.

8. Q: Intellectual property rights: If we are accepted to the competition, do we retain full intellectual property rights of our project?

A: No. From the moment your project is accepted to the competition and for a period of 3 years, Berger-Levrault becomes the owner of all intellectual property rights pertaining to your project (as indicated in the documents 'Application' and 'Policies' on the competition website).

At the end of the 3-year period, BL will either A) Negotiate a monetary payment with the team in question in order to permanently acquire these rights, or B) Release the rights, thereby returning them to the team in question.

9. Q: What are the evaluation criteria of the final jury?

A: As indicated in the 'Policies' document available as a download from our website, the principal criteria are, but not limited to, the following:

- The level of technical complexity of the project
- The innovative nature of the project (a new approach, improvement of an existing solution, the creation of a new use or tool)
- The progress made with the project between the launch of the competition and the project completion date
- Ability to finalize the project with a view to bringing it to market
- The presentation in front of the final jury (including a promotional video of 3-4 minutes)

10. Q: Where does the final jury take place? Will it take place in person or remotely?

A: The final jury takes place at our headquarters in Boulogne-Billancourt (a suburb of Paris) in France. For teams who reach the final jury and are not located in Paris, either A) they will participate remotely (by video conference) or B) they will participate in person (in which case Berger-Levrault will take in charge relevant travel expenses).

11. Q: Is it an obligation to produce a prototype before the end of the competition?

A: No. But for those teams who do produce a prototype, it can represent a big advantage at the final jury.

12. Q: When is the qualifying round and how many teams will advance?

A: The qualifying round usually takes place near the end of April, when 8 teams will be selected to advance to the final jury based on evaluations provided by each internal coach and the competition coordinator. The selection criteria for the qualifying round are, in general, three elements: level of motivation, level of progress realized and level of feasibility.

13. Q: What kinds of internships do you offer? How long? And where?

A: For precise information on this topic, students are advised to visit the [BL webpage](#) dedicated to job and internship offers.

BL offers both domestic and international internships. The duration of internships varies according to country and offer but generally last between 2 and 6 months. The three relevant countries are France, Spain and Canada.

Note: If you have a question the answer to which you did not find in this document, please don't hesitate to contact us at: contact@cityzenchallenge.com.