

2023 UCalgary Global Community Challenge YYC Student Guide

Welcome!

Congratulations on being selected for the Fall 2023 UCalgary Global Community Challenge YYC! The following information is to provide you with an in-depth understanding of the program and your participation.

How does it work?

The familiar phrase “act locally, think globally” strongly represents the community partner organizations within the Global Community Challenge. Across our local community these dedicated organizations are achieving incredible impacts tackling complex challenges that have global application. These changemakers thrive in environments that demand resilience and adaptability to support the issues they are focused on.

The Global Community Challenge YYC (GCC) provides opportunities for you to work as part of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary teams to co-create solutions that help address these issues. Doing so will position you to become a catalyst for innovative, meaningful change in approaching real-world challenges.

What's in it for you?

While this program does not count for academic credit, it provides you with a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience while strengthening skills that will be influential in your current and future success both educationally and professionally. Successfully completing the GCC will provide you with many benefits, which include (but are not limited to):

- Gain proficiency in modern employment skills of agility, emotional intelligence, creative thinking, networking, critical thinking and remote teamwork ([Forbes, 2022](#))
- Develop new skills in research, innovative thinking, problem-solving, and team building, while spending time working with students from different disciplines and countries, gaining different perspective to the designated challenge
- Gain experience preparing and presenting compelling arguments in front of academic and community leaders
- Earn recognition among your peers and local university community
- Make connections with others who have a likeminded passion for tackling real-world challenges
- Expand your professional development network through collaborations with local and global peers, mentors, and expert panelists
- Participate in a series of custom workshops designed to help you feel confident planning and executing your project
- Receive Co-Curricular Record recognition for your expected 30 hours of engagement and participation (*UCalgary students only. See details below*)
- Boost your graduate/professional school application, as well as your CV/resume
- Gain hands-on experience addressing real-life issues related to a global issue or problem of interest

Who else is involved?

Your Team

Based on the preferred challenges identified in your application, you will be assigned to a team of 6-8 students. Each student team will be linked with one of our community partners to address their challenge. In our experience, the strongest solutions come from teams that can approach an issue from multiple points of view, taking aspects of everyone's unique backgrounds and skill sets to provide collective benefit. Therefore, we have intentionally designed the teams to be multi-disciplinary and multi-national with representative of varied academic and global perspectives.

Some suggested themes for your team meetings should be:

- 1 initial meeting for introductions and brainstorming:
 - Getting to know each other is as critical as understanding your challenge:
 - Take time to share amongst one another, what are each of your areas of expertise, strengths, and inabilities
 - What are your team's expectations, and rules? Such as: How quickly should everyone respond? How stringent are your internal deadlines?
 - What availability does each team member have?
 - What communication channels will you use to plan and execute your work effectively, across different time zones and schedules? Will you plan "live" meetings or do most of your communication via email or another platform?
 - How will you share and divide the responsibilities among the team? Will you assign team roles (i.e. primary contact for your Community Partner, meeting note-taker, etc.)?
 - Who will attend which workshops live in order to ensure that your team is represented (remember that individually you are all responsible for attending at least three sessions live, but as a team someone must be at every workshop too!)
 - Thoroughly discuss the challenge provided to your team:
 - What is each team member's understanding of the problem?
 - What will success look like for your community partner organization? What can you achieve within the timeframe of the GCC program?
 - Are there questions you need to ask your Community Partner about their organization, their stakeholders, the issue they are hoping to solve?
 - What other information or context do you need to develop a proposed solution?
- 1 meeting to finalize narrowing down problem scope and ideas for solutions
- 1-2 meetings for follow up and finalizing ideas
- 1 meeting with your community partner during the feedback period
- 1 meeting with a judge in the feedback round, if you have chosen to complete this requirement live and not submit a recording
- 1-2 meetings to finalize your presentation of the solution for the finals

Community Partners

All community partners are Calgary-based organizations who were hand-picked for their focus on a combination of local and global issues. This challenge is all about understanding how world issues are connected to sustaining the wellbeing of local communities, such as Calgary or other regions in which the community partners are active. The Global Community Challenge YYC aims to inspire you to actively contribute to positive change by being aware of the relentless dedication of organizations serving communities near and far - starting with supporting your GCC community partner!

Community partners will provide a key contact at the organization who you will work with throughout the challenge and who is prepared to volunteer 15-20 hours over the course of the challenge, which will include (at minimum):

- 1 initial Zoom meeting for introductions and to learn about the organization and the issue/challenge they are facing
- Follow-up emails and phone calls to answer your questions and provide clarification, as needed, as your team develops a solution
- A meeting with your Community Partner during the Feedback Round to provide feedback on your solution so far and to help prepare for the final presentations
- A debrief meeting following the completion of the competition so you can hand over your work and answer any questions they may have.

The GCC program coordinators at University of Calgary International will provide an initial introductory email, your mentor will initiate your first group meeting, and then it will be your responsibility to maintain communication with your community partner. Community partners are expected to respond to emails within three business days. If your community partner has not been responsive to your outreach by September 30, or in case of any questions or issues, please contact the program coordinators at global.challenge@ucalgary.ca and we will follow up to make sure you are supported.

Mentors

Each team will have an assigned mentor(s) to support them in the development of their proposed solution. You are expected to have 3-5 meetings (1.5 hours each) with your mentors across the challenge between September to November over zoom.

Although your mentor will be initiating your first meeting, it is your responsibility to reach out to them to ask for support via email, and to set up future meetings. Mentors are expected to respond to emails within three business days. If your mentor has not been responsive to your outreach by September 30 or in case of any questions or issues, please contact the program coordinators at global.challenge@ucalgary.ca and we will follow up to make sure you are supported.

University of Calgary International

The Global Community Challenge YYC is an initiative of the University of Calgary International. Our team of program coordinators are here to support students, community partners, and mentors throughout the challenge. If you have any questions about the program, technical issues, or anything else, please let us know by emailing global.challenge@ucalgary.ca, and we will find the answers and support you need!

Important details

Communication

All students will be added to a Desire2Learn (D2L) site to connect with group members, receive program reminders, and access program content. Your mentors will also be added to the D2L site to access your work and provide feedback when needed.

Workshops

We will be running seven separate workshops across the span of the challenge. Six sessions will be held virtually using zoom and one will be a posted recording you can view at your own pace. The links to enter sessions will be posted on D2L. You can find the themes, schedule, and more details about each one below.

We strongly encourage students to attend all workshops with your team in real-time (unless otherwise noted) as they will be highly interactive. Through the workshops you will learn and engage with your team members to enhance your experience and performance in the challenge. These workshops are focused on your project and team development, as well as your own professional development.

Please note that the first workshop on October 2 is mandatory for all students to attend in real time. Each also student must attend at least two additional workshops in real time. The remaining workshops can be viewed live on Zoom, or you may view the recording at a later time. **At least 1 member of each student team must be present synchronously at each workshop.** Most workshops will be offered at two distinct times to accommodate different time zones of participation.

Recordings of all workshops will be made available on D2L for those who cannot attend the live sessions, and it is expected that students will watch the recordings and participate in any D2L discussion if they are unable to attend the live presentation.

Time Commitment

We expect participating in this challenge will require students to commit about 30 hours of their time. This would include workshops, meetings with community partners and mentors, working with your team, and the final presentations.

Recognition of Challenge Work

All students who complete the Global Community Challenge YYC will be eligible for a **Certificate of Participation**. University of Calgary students are also able to add their participation to their **Co-Curricular Record**. To be eligible for the Certificate of Participation and/or Co-Curricular Record, students must complete the following:

- All students must attend the first workshop live, followed by two other live workshops of their choice, and write responses to the question on D2L (3 live workshop minimum)
- Attend remaining workshops synchronously and write responses to the question on D2L **or** watch the recording of all workshops and write responses to discussion questions on D2L
- Contribute to the video presentation of their solution

Certificates will be issued after the program has ended. UCalgary students who qualify for Co-Curricular Record will be sent instructions on how to add the challenge to their record after program completion.

Challenge Milestones

Oct 30- Nov 10	Feedback Period	All teams to share their solution at the Feedback Round meetings and receive feedback.
Nov 17	Submit final presentation video for judging	All teams to submit a video of judging for the final round of the competition
Nov 23	Finals Round	All teams to attend finals. Top 5 Teams will be announced and given a Q&A session with the judges. Winner will be announced.

Workshops Timeline

Date	Task/Deadline
Sept 25, 2023	The challenge officially starts! Teams, mentors, and community partners announced and connected.
Oct 2, 2023	Workshop of the week: Challenge Kick-off (Mandatory real-time attendance for all students) 11am-12pm MST
Oct 4, 2023	Workshop of the week: Innovating for Impactful Projects 2pm-3pm MST
Oct 9-13, 2023	Workshop of the week: Introduction to Your Intercultural Capacity Two options to attend (see schedule on D2L)
Oct 16-20, 2023	Workshop of the week: Building Intercultural Awareness Two options to attend (see schedule on D2L)
Oct 23-27, 2023	Workshop of the week: Building a Strong Team Two options to attend (see schedule on D2L)
Oct 31-Nov 11, 2022	Feedback Period <i>Students must be in contact with their community partner and their assigned UCalgary Expert to receive feedback on a draft of their presentation in this period.</i>
Nov 6-11, 2023	Workshop of the week: Professional Applications of Challenge Work Two options to attend (see schedule on D2L)
Asynchronous	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion This is a recorded workshop and will be posted for students to view on their own
Nov 23, 2023	Final round of challenge <i>Students must submit their video presentations in advance</i>

*Dates and times are subject to change. Please see schedule on D2L for the most up to date details.

Challenge evaluation guidelines:

You will present your team’s solution to your community partner and receive an evaluation from a panel of adjudicators based on a rubric similar to the one below used to evaluate the projects for the Fall 2022 challenges. Please note that we are in the process of updating this rubric for Fall 2023. The new rubric will be shared on D2L.

Example:

Global Community Challenge YYC Fall 2022 Scoring Rubric

Team:	
Community Partner:	
Challenge:	

Please score how well the team addressed the criteria outlined below using the following scale:

Description	Score Value
This criterion was very well addressed	4
This criterion was well addressed but there are small areas that could be improved	3
This criterion was addressed but could use improvement/elaboration	2
This criterion was somewhat addressed but has significant gaps	1
This criterion was not addressed.	0

Explanation of the challenge	Score
The challenge has been clearly explained	
The team has a deep understanding of intersectional issues that contribute to the challenge	
Proposed solution	Score
Effective and Innovative The solution addresses the defined challenge. The solution demonstrates critical thinking, is innovative and, where appropriate, applies disciplinary	() x4



knowledge and existing research.	
Feasible and Sustainable The solution is feasible and takes into consideration accessibility to resources and necessary supports; it also addresses the capacity of the community partner to implement the solution. The solution is sustainable and can be implemented long term with the plan outlined by the team. The team anticipated and responded to important questions or challenges arising from the proposed solution.	() x3
Global mindset	Score
Where appropriate, the team has aligned their solution with global or regional strategic goals and priorities (such as UN Sustainable Development Goals)	
Understanding of community partner	Score
The team demonstrates that they have appropriately engaged the community partner in the development in the solution and have a strong understanding of both the partner and their clientele	
The work of the team demonstrates knowledge, skills and abilities for Engaging Respectfully, Learning Cultures, Valuing Diversity	
Video Presentation	Score
Organization The video presentation was effectively organized and made good use of the time allotted	
Communication Visuals in the video served to enhance the presentation, and presenters spoke clearly and were easily understood	
Overall Comments	
FINAL SCORE	

Challenge goals - something to keep in mind...

For us, the overall competition is secondary! The ultimate importance is not which team's presented solution is judged as the overall winner. The real triumph results from the process of working through a challenge to benefit the community and the personal learnings you gain along the way. You will work in interdisciplinary teams with students from different countries and cultures, be exposed to new perspectives, gain a better understanding of yourself, discover more about your strengths and weaknesses, and explore how to work effectively with others.

We are in the process of exploring ways to help ensure proposed solutions and contributions of student teams are sustainable for the community partners. If you are interested in continuing to work with your community partner, please let them know and keep us in the loop - we would love to keep track of ongoing collaborations.

Looking after each other

As we strive to create a safe and respectful workspace for mentors, students, and community partners, we are all responsible to:

- Ensure that your team's environment is safe, healthy, and free from harassment, discrimination, and conflict.
- Contribute to a collegial environment, seeking to add to, rather than take away from, the wellness of others.

Useful Technology Links

Given the virtual nature of this challenge you may find it helpful to use some of the resources listed below to communicate and share documents with your group members.

Group Work: [Google Drive](#), [Microsoft Teams](#), [Slack](#), [Padlet](#), [Trello](#)

Video Conferencing: [Zoom](#), [Microsoft Teams](#), [Skype](#), [Google Meet](#), [WhatsApp](#), [WeChat](#), [Viber](#)

Video Editing: [Yuja](#), iMovie

Contact information:

Please contact Global Community Challenge YYC program coordinators from University of Calgary International at global.challenge@ucalgary.ca with any questions, comments or concerns.

Thank you!!!

We hope this will be a meaningful experience for all involved.