

PRME Students Innovation Studio Design: Request for Proposal

Introduction:

The PRME Students Innovation Studio, an initiative of the UN Global Compact, is a global incubator programme supporting interdisciplinary student teams in transforming bold sustainability ideas into impact-driven ventures. Selected teams will receive guided mentorship and winning teams will be awarded seed funding, along with the opportunity to showcase their solutions at the **2026 PRME Global Forum in Cairo, Egypt at the end of June**.

Programme Tracks:

- **Seed Track:** For early-stage innovators developing new sustainability ideas or prototypes.
- **Catalyst Track:** For ventures that have piloted their solution and are ready to scale.
- **SheLeads Track:** For women-led ventures driving impact and inclusion across the SDGs (TBD).

Project Objectives:

The core objective of this collaboration is to **co-design an innovation studio tailored specifically to the needs, values, and ambitions of the PRME community**, rather than replicating a standard incubator model. We are committed to building an incubator that supports teams in meaningfully developing and advancing their ventures, rather than producing short-term ideas that fail to progress after the programme ends. We seek an individual or team with design-thinking, systems-thinking, and innovation expertise, from PRME Signatory Members, to help develop a sustainable, replicable incubator model with impact. Key objectives include:

- **Create a purpose-built innovation studio model** that responds to PRME's mission, student context, and sustainability focus.
- **Design a system that supports long-term venture success**, ensuring participants continue developing their initiatives beyond the incubator, rather than projects ending after the programme.
- **Embed systems thinking, human-centered design, and innovation methodologies** to strengthen the studio's strategic and operational foundation.
- **Integrate mentorship through our partnership with the [UN Global Compact SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals](#)**, ensuring mentors are trained and supported to guide student teams effectively.

Deliverables:

- **Innovation Studio Design Blueprint:** A design framework outlining the studio's model, system architecture, learning pathways, programme logic, and distinct value proposition, tailored to the needs of PRME's global student community.
- **Track-specific Programme Architecture:** Co-developed structures for the Seed, Catalyst, and SheLeads tracks, including stage-by-stage support models, developmental milestones, and expected outcomes for each track.
- **Mentorship System Design & Training Framework:** A detailed plan for the tiered mentorship model (skills mentors, sector mentors, investment mentors), including mentor recruitment profiles, matching criteria, support expectations, training modules, and evaluation tools.
- **Venture Support & Milestone Framework:** Clear criteria, tools, and templates for tracking team progress, validating prototypes, preparing for pitch stages, and assessing venture readiness for scaling and funding opportunities.
- **Application & Selection Criteria Integration:** An implementable process for team assessment aligned with global application criteria, including eligibility, track fit, venture maturity, and SDG alignment, supported by clear rubrics and screening tools.
- **Mentor/Team Engagement Protocols:** A structured model for mentor engagement, including session agendas, expectations, templates for progress review, and guidance on mentor/team interactions across the programme duration.
- **Programme Roadmap & Implementation Plan:** A detailed timeline with phases, activities, resource requirements, and governance models guiding pre-launch design, programme rollout, mentorship phases, semi-finals preparation, and final pitch competition.
- **Impact Measurement & Success Metrics Framework:** A set of measurable indicators and evaluation tools to assess venture progress, mentor effectiveness, student experience, and overall programme impact.
- **Alumni & Ecosystem Integration Strategy:** A plan to connect graduating teams with ongoing mentorship, investor networks, partner institutions, and the broader PRME/UNGC ecosystem to ensure continuity and scaling beyond programme completion.

Proposal Requirements:

Respondents must include: Organizational Overview, Relevant Experience & Case Studies, Proposed Collaboration Model, Team Expertise & Roles, Design Methodology Examples, Timeline & Approach, and Resource Requirements.

Project timeline: 6 to 8 weeks (January to March 2026)

Submit proposals to students@unprme.org by December 15, 2025.