

# The Ghana Science & Tech Explorer Prize (GSTEP) Challenge 2024-2025

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document is a summary of questions and answers to some of our most common queries relating to the Ghana Science & Tech Explorer Prize (GSTEP) Challenge.

You can also access a wide range of resources on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

If you have questions about the GSTEP Challenge that are not answered in this document or the website, please email [challenge@gstep.org.gh](mailto:challenge@gstep.org.gh) or contact [0595703311](tel:0595703311).

Please also ensure you have read our Terms & Conditions (T&Cs), which can also be found on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

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## ANSWERS

### 1. ABOUT THE CHALLENGE PRIZE COMPETITION

#### 1.1. **What is the Ghana Science & Tech Explorer Prize (GSTEP) Challenge?**

The Ghana Science & Tech Explorer Prize (GSTEP) Challenge is a unique opportunity for young people to learn more about practical learning, innovation, entrepreneurship and STEM. It presents a new way for young people to engage as science and technology inventors, developing not only STEM skills but also soft skills such as problem-solving, presentation, communication, teamwork and entrepreneurship skills.

The GSTEP Challenge runs within the academic year, giving students an extended amount of time to engage with the activities and, importantly, gives them the time to make their idea a reality and to develop the skills needed. The GSTEP Challenge also provides all the resources needed to take part. This includes the activity session plans to encourage initial ideation to the kit and mentors to help develop the finalist team's prototypes.

#### 1.2. **What is the DreamOval Foundation?**

[DreamOval Foundation](#) is a Ghana-based foundation that manages and runs digital literacy programmes and training to improve the quality of education in Ghana and support the youth, entrepreneurs and business professionals with personal and professional development.

DreamOval Foundation is leading the GSTEP programme, with support from Partnership Bureau, Shulem Lake and Practical Education Network

#### 1.3. **What are Challenge Prize competitions?**

Challenge Prizes offer a reward to whoever can first or most effectively meet a defined challenge. Through a competition, Challenge Prizes aim to engage the broadest possible community of innovators in solving a specific problem or challenge.

## 2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE & TIMELINE

### 2.1. What are the key dates of the GSTEP Challenge?

The key dates for your diary include:

- The GSTEP Challenge opens for entries: **14th October 2024**
- Final deadline to submit entries: **11th November 2024**
- Semi- Finalist Team Announcement: **10th December, 2024**
- Semi-Finalist support Stage: **January to February 2025** (date TBC)
- Finalist teams announced: **24th February 2025**
- Finalist support stage: - **March to May 2025** (date TBC)
- Finalist Induction Events: **4th March to 7th March, 2025** (date TBC)
- Judging Events: - **2nd June to 6th June 2025** (date TBC)
- Awards and Exhibition - **July, 2025**

### 2.2. How many teams will be selected as finalists?

There will be 105 teams selected as semi finalists; from each of the targeted regions (Greater Accra, Ashanti Region and Eastern Region)

There will be **45** teams selected from the 105 to the next stage as finalists from each of the targeted regions (Greater Accra, Ashanti region and Eastern region.)

### 2.3. Is the competition divided into age categories?

No, there won't be any division of ages.

### 2.4. What are the prizes and who will win them?

The winning teams and the runners-up will be awarded with generous cash prizes, STEM related materials and resources for their schools, team members and lead teacher.

### 2.5. When will the winners be announced?

The winner will be announced at the Awards Event on 23rd July 2025

### 2.6. Is the prize money taxable?

No. But those receiving funding are responsible for the payment of taxes, where applicable.

## **2.7 How will teams receive updates and communication about the GSTEP Challenge?**

Updates and communication with the teams will be done via email, WhatsApp, phone calls and through assigned STEM coordinators by the Ghana Education Service

The Ghana Education Service (GES) will also be in contact via letter and Whatsapp at particular points in the programme.

You can also follow us on social media:

- Instagram ([@gstep\\_gh](#))
- Facebook ([@GSTEPGH](#))
- Linked In ([@Ghana Science & Tech Explorer Prize](#))
- Twitter ([@GSTEP\\_GH](#))

### 3. TYPES OF IDEAS WE ARE LOOKING FOR

#### 3.1. What ideas are you hoping to see?

One of the great things about the GSTEP Challenge is that we don't want to be too prescriptive, which encourages a huge range of creative solutions to come through.

We are looking for innovative and creative ideas that use science and / or technology to make the world a better place by enabling people to: Live healthier, Live greener and Live together.

#### 3.2. Does my idea need to relate to a theme?

Your idea needs to use science and technology to make the world a better place.

Within this there are 3 suggested themes that have been identified, and your project should relate to one of them. This should be possible, as they are quite broad. If your idea does not fit into one of these themes, though, please specify an alternative category in the application form.

The 3 categories are:



**Live healthier:** Providing people with what they need to lead happy and healthy lives, including physical health and mental wellbeing. This covers topics that relate to individuals, such as nutrition, hydration and exercise.



**Live greener:** Protecting the environment and saving the planet's resources. This covers topics that relate to the planet, such as climate change, conservation and waste management.



**Live together:** Producing community cohesion and tackling social issues. This covers topics that relate to society, such as discrimination, communication, transport and crime.



### **3.3. Where can I find guidance on how to develop my idea?**

There are resources on the GSTEP Challenge website ([www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh)) to help you develop your ideas.

## **4. WHO CAN ENTER?**

### **4.1. I don't know very much about science and technology. Can I still enter?**

Yes! The GSTEP Challenge is all about exposing young people to new forms of science and technology, so we're not looking for experts. We just want you to be creative at solving issues. See our website to access useful resources: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

### **4.2. What are the team requirements?**

4 - 6 young people should be involved in the development of the idea at all times throughout the GSTEP Challenge.

An adult (normally a teacher) must be responsible for the team at all times. This adult will submit the entry form on behalf of the group.

### **4.3. What age do students have to be?**

Anybody at Junior High School (JHS) can enter. Most of the participants will be between the ages of 11-16 years old, but we are aware some may be slightly younger or older.

### **4.4. Am I eligible to enter?**

You are eligible to enter as long as the team are all at Junior High School (JHS) in either the Greater Accra, Eastern or Ashanti regions of Ghana.

4-6 young people can enter as a team. An adult needs to represent the team throughout the GSTEP Challenge.

See more about eligibility by reading our Terms & Conditions, which can be found on our website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

**4.5. Can teachers or adult representatives submit their ideas?**

The competition is specifically looking for ideas from young people. Entries written by teachers or other adults will **not** be accepted.

However, an adult should supervise the young people's submissions and submit their application on the team's behalf.

**4.6. Can more than one team from the same school enter the GSTEP Challenge?**

Yes, we encourage this! This is a great activity for a whole class or group to get involved in. Our resources page provides lesson plans that will help large or small groups start thinking of ideas, and they can then split into teams.

Please note that each team should enter with a separate application form, submitted by an adult.

## 5. HOW TO ENTER

### 5.1. How do I enter?

You will need to enter by filling out an online Application Form. This can be found on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

Please make sure you have read the Eligibility Criteria, Judging Criteria and Terms & Conditions, which can be found on our website:

[www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

You may want to plan your answers by downloading the draft entry form from our resources page. Only entries submitted electronically will be accepted and these should be submitted by an adult on behalf of a team.

### 5.2. Is there a registration fee?

No. The GSTEP Challenge is free to enter.

### 5.3. Who can we contact if we have questions about our application or the GSTEP Challenge process?

You can send an email to [challenge@gstep.org.gh](mailto:challenge@gstep.org.gh) or contact **0595703311**.

### 5.4. When is the deadline for online entries?

The deadline for entries is 15h Nov,2024 at **11:59 GMT**.

### 5.5. My computer crashed or the form timed out before I finished my online entry. What should I do?

Plan your answers using the Word document on our **resources page** (make sure you save the document regularly).

Once you are happy with your answers, copy and paste the text into the entry form fields and submit.

### 5.6. Can I edit my entry once it's been submitted?

If you need to edit an entry once it's been submitted, please email to [challenge@gstep.org.gh](mailto:challenge@gstep.org.gh) or contact **0595703311**.

**5.7. Can I remove my entry once it's been submitted?**

Yes, you can remove your entry after it has been submitted by emailing [challenge@gstep.org.gh](mailto:challenge@gstep.org.gh) or contact 0595703311.

**6. APPLICATIONS BY PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS OR APPLICANTS**

**6.1. Can I apply again for the 2023 GSTEP Challenge?**

Yes. You can apply for the GSTEP Challenge again if you applied or participated in the previous Challenge.

**6.2. Can I apply with the same idea I submitted in the previous Challenge?**

Yes but only if you were not selected as a finalist for the previous Challenge. Finalists from the previous challenge cannot submit the same idea for the 2024-25 GSTEP Challenge.

**6.3. Can the same team who participated in the previous Challenge participate in the 2024-25 GSTEP Challenge with the same team name?**

Yes. You can apply with the same team name.

**6.4. Can a teacher who participated in the previous GSTEP Challenge apply again with the same team that participated in the previous Challenge?**

Yes. You can apply with the same team that participated in the previous Challenge.

**6.5. Can individual team members who participated in the previous Challenge join a new team to apply for the 2024-25 GSTEP Challenge?**

Yes. Individual team members can join a new team.

**6.6. Can the winning team from the previous GSTEP Challenge apply for the 2023 GSTEP Challenge?**

No. Members of the winning team and the runners up from the previous Challenge can neither collectively nor individually apply to the 2023 GSTEP Challenge.

## 7. JUDGING

### 7.1. What will the judges be looking for in my project?

In the early stages, judges will be more interested in the concept of the idea. Later, the competition judges will be looking at how well the team can demonstrate their understanding of the criteria by developing their idea.

### 7.2. How will you judge the entries?

A knowledgeable group of assessors and a judging panel with relevant experience to the GSTEP Challenge will assess each entry fairly at each assessment point of the Challenge.

The assessors and judges will review the entries against a set criteria, known as the Judging Criteria. This can be found on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh)

### 7.3. Who are the judges?

The panel will be made up of a group of experts, with science, technical and/or business backgrounds.

The full list of the judges will be announced on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh)

## 8. ROLE AS A TEACHER

### 8.1. How much time will I need to dedicate to the GSTEP Challenge?

The time dedicated to the competition will vary for each teacher, depending on your individual circumstances.

There are 6 lesson plans to help you with the application process, which are designed to take 40-60 minutes. Minimal preparation time will be required, as detailed teaching notes are provided. You can find these on the GSTEP Challenge website: [www.gstep.org.gh](http://www.gstep.org.gh).

The application form is designed to be as simple to fill in as possible. Most of the information will need to be filled out by the students.

Once selected, finalists will be required to attend online webinars, as well as working on their final submission. Finalists will also be supported to develop their ideas into prototypes. We encourage teams to think about their own time availability and how they will work together. However, we recommend spending at least 1 hour every 2 weeks on the development.

### 8.2. How will the GSTEP Challenge fit into my teaching plans?

This is a great opportunity for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects, as well as Business Studies.

However, it can relate to any subject if you think about it creatively. The GSTEP Challenge is, therefore, relevant to a wide range of topics, including Physical Education (e.g. Live healthier theme) and Geography (Live greener theme), to name just a couple. We encourage you to be creative!

### 8.3. As my students create their projects, what can I do to ensure that they only include images, photos and videos they have permission to use?

Apart from ensuring their idea is unique, students shouldn't need to use any media in their initial application as this is a written form.

In the finalist stage, we advise students to state if the media they are using is royalty free or check the source to make sure that they can use it in a public manner. Websites that can provide free stock images include:

- [Plexel](#)
- [Unsplash](#)

#### **8.4. My students have submitted their projects for judging. What happens now?**

An assessment takes place after each stage of submission. All participating teams will be informed of the outcome at each stage and next steps will be clearly outlined via SMS and email ([challenge@gstep.org.gh](mailto:challenge@gstep.org.gh)).

#### **8.5. Once the GSTEP Challenge has ended, then what?**

We hope this will just be the start! Participants should be in a position to continue to develop their solutions and potentially even get them to market