



2024/25 U21 RISE Competition Overview

About RISE

RISE (Real Impact on Society and Environment) is an international showcase of student achievement in sustainability and social innovation, designed to accelerate the scale and impact of student-led projects by connecting them with experts in academia and industry.

For our contribution to the U21 RISE competition, UZH is looking for active student-led projects that address environmental and/or social development. Four projects will be selected to receive USD 2,000 worth of seed funding from U21 to support their growth and development.

To find out more about previous RISE projects, please check out the [2023/24 RISE showcase](#).

Eligibility

- You are a UZH student who has a voluntary, social enterprise or environmental project that you wish to develop further, or scale up.
- You are a current UZH student or recent graduate (graduation no more than 2 years ago).
- You have already started your project in some way (it must be in the early development stages).
- Your project directly addresses one of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- Find all eligibility criteria on the [U21 RISE website for students](#) or in the [U21 RISE handbook](#).

Submission Guidelines

- Complete the competition application form and submit it to andrea.orbannoechslin@uzh.ch by **Friday, 31 January 2025**, 23:59 CET the latest.
- The final submission to U21 in May 2025 should be in the form of an inspirational video pitch.

Judging Criteria

- **Issue:** Why is this initiative needed? Which of the UN SDGs are being addressed?
- **Idea:** How well does this initiative respond to the outlined issue? How original is the idea?
- **Impact:** What measurable difference has this project already had on the lives of the target population or on the natural environment?
- **Potential:** How scalable is this project? What is the future business plan and how would the project team make use of future investment?

Important Dates

- **31 January 2025** – UZH submission deadline
- February 2025 – Selected student team(s) develop(s) a video outline
- March 2025 – Selected student team(s) produce(s) video of 3 to 5 minutes duration
- **21 May 2025** – U21 RISE submission deadline
- June 2025 – Finalists RISE development workshop
- **June / July 2025** – Judging and announcement of RISE awards