The Next Question

RESEARCH PROPOSAL COMPETITION

OPEN NOW | 28 October - 24 November 2026

Research Nest x The BU1LD

First-place prize

- **One overall winner receives mentorship from a professor.**
- Professor, format, duration and scheduling will be announced separately. No separate category prizes are announced.

Choose a category

- Science & Medicine
- Technology & Engineering
- Economics & Business
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Environment & Sustainability
- State your category below your proposal title. For a cross-subject idea, choose the closest fit.

What to submit

- An original research proposal. Completed experiments or a published paper are not required.
- **Maximum 1,500 words**, including an abstract of up to **150 words**. The title and reference list are excluded; other prose, captions and tables count.
- One PDF under **10 MB**, with readable **11-12 pt** text, headings and page numbers.
- Filename: **Proposal_ShortTitle.pdf**.
- Check the official form for eligibility and entrant details before submitting.

Submit your entry

Open the official Google Form

forms.gle/R9gfcseM9XYbJfPGA

Deadline: **24 November 2026**. Check the form and competition page for any closing-time clarification.

Your proposal checklist

- **Title & abstract**
  Add a title, category and abstract of up to 150 words: problem, question and approach.
- **Background & research gap**
  Summarise existing evidence, identify an unanswered question and cite your sources.
- **Research question & objectives**
  State one focused question and two or three objectives. Add a hypothesis if appropriate.
- **Methodology & analysis**
  Explain your design, data or sample, measurements and analysis plan.
- **Ethics, feasibility & limitations**
  Address permissions, consent, privacy, safety, resources and limitations.
- **Timeline & expected contribution**
  Outline your tasks and what the study could contribute. Include references and an AI-use disclosure.

Judging | 100 points

Question & research gap	25
Methodology & analysis plan	30
Evidence & reasoning	20
Ethics & feasibility	15
Clarity & organisation	10

Before you submit

- Cite sources consistently and credit collaborators. Disclose any AI tools and their use, or state that none were used. You remain responsible for your work.
- Do not plagiarise, invent data or citations, or present simulated data as real observations.
- No new experiments or personal-data collection are required. Describe any permissions, consent, privacy safeguards and qualified supervision your study would need. Do not include sensitive participant information.
- Upload the PDF to the official form, complete the entrant details and declarations, then press Submit. Keep the confirmation or response copy; uploading alone is not an entry.
- Use only the competition form. Entries through Discord, email or GRC forms do not count.