



UNIFORCE 2025 GUIDELINES

A flagship inter-university employability initiative designed to bring together Scotland's academic talent, drive innovation, and inspire leadership, building a stronger and brighter future for tomorrow's workforce

Contents

PART A..... 2

Introduction..... 2

Why should I take part? 3

PART B..... 4

Guidance for your Proposal 5

Timeline of Events 6

PART C 7

Marking Criteria breakdown (Impact Analysis) 7

 a. **Proposal criteria** 7

 b. **Mid Report** 7

 c. **Final Report**..... 8

Your submission review timeline 8

Milestone and Important Deadlines (*please bear in mind*) 9

UNIFORCE

Call for Submissions | July 2025



PART A

Introduction

UNIFORCE is a student-led initiative that brings together students from across Scotland to work on real-world sustainability challenges in teams. It's about using your skills to make a difference and boost your employability!

It is open to current students and recent graduates across four cities in the five participating Scottish Universities:

- Stirling
- Robert Gordon
- Edinburgh Napier
- Glasgow Caledonian
- University of the West of Scotland

Students from the participating universities are challenged to address real-world issues by developing projects over a period of 8 weeks that foster innovation, build communities, and strengthen Scotland's economic workforce.

This year's theme is "**Project for a Sustainable Scotland**".

Purpose:

UNIFORCE's core purpose is to empower Scotland's university students through hands-on, project-based learning, championing a 'learn by doing' approach that builds practical skills and boosts career readiness. Providing engaging and dynamic platform where students can:

1. Enhance employability by developing valuable professional skills through practical experience, paving the way for future career success
2. Tackle global challenges with confidence and competence by applying innovative problem-solving to real-world themes
3. Develop expertise in project initiation and execution, resilient and teamwork.
4. Build a sense of community and collaboration across universities.

Why should I take part?

1. Provide a realistic environment to develop and practice professional competences associated with project management delivery and implementation.
2. Offer an opportunity to be mentored and work alongside experienced project professionals developing greater interpersonal qualities.
3. Develop knowledge of the success criteria required to deliver a winning or successful project.
4. An opportunity to strengthen presentation skills by creating and delivering a project pitch to a live audience employers of peers
5. An opportunity to enhance the learning experience within the corporate and further education environments.

PART B

Project Delivery Structure and Participant Reward

1. Participants are required to form a team of 3 - 7 members to propose and execute a project of their choice aligned with this year's theme, '*Projects for a Sustainable Scotland*' (see part c)
2. Academics will serve as the judging panel and elected officers from the participating universities form the review board.
3. Throughout the challenge, participating student group will submit structured reports at various stages to track progress:

Project Proposal (750 words): A detailed plan of the project's lifecycle and objectives. (to be submitted on 4 October 2025)

Mid-Term Report (500 words): A progress report after four weeks of the project starting. (to be submitted 15 November 2025)

Final Report (350 words): An evaluation of project outcomes against predefined success criteria. (to be submitted 5 December 2025)

Awards & Recognition:

The challenge will celebrate winners throughout the programme.

1. Student participants will have the chance to pitch their projects to potential employers and network with industry professionals.
2. The teams will be featured on our website and social media channels
3. Thanks to our sponsorship by UNISON, the winning team will receive a £200 cash prize.
4. All participants will be awarded certificates based on achievements in the following categories: Innovation Excellence, Community Impact, Future-Focused Solutions, Energy Efficiency Recognition and Global Sustainability Contribution.

5. Our partnership with ISCANET provides all announced finalists access to ISCANET's Premium Pack, up to 12-weeks of cutting-edge tools, designed to elevate your personal and professional edge during and after the programme.
6. Most importantly, you will gain professionally recognised UK work experience and develop key skills such as project management, teamworking and communication. Great stuff for your CV and impressing future employers!

Guidance for your Proposal

1. Get together in a group of 3-7 and come up with a team name e.g. (*Team Save*) and submit this with your proposal along with member details (*names and email addresses*)
2. Submit your team's project proposal (containing items **a–e** as outlined below) to Initiative.uniforce@gmail.com or c.marvis@napier.ac.uk by **4th October 2025**.

Refer to the below template and table for detailed descriptions. The proposal should not exceed **750 words**.

Title	UNIFORCE 2025
Composition Project Proposal	Project teams are expected to submit a proposal that presents a compelling and feasible argument for executing their chosen project. The proposal should be no longer than 750 words, and a structured template is provided below to guide the submission.
*TABLE OF CONTENT SHOULD CONTAIN	
a. Project purpose and definition.	<u>Description</u> The tangible or intangible products, services, or results that are produced as a result of the project

b. Objectives, and Project schedule	The specific outputs or outcomes that meet the project purpose and requirements, within specific timeline
c. Risks and opportunities	Associated threats and opportunities carefully considered for the project completion.
d. Planned resources	What simple resources are needed e.g. people, funds etc.
e. Success Criteria/ KPIs	What shall you be accountable for? Primarily on the end results and outputs of the project.

Timeline of Events

An 8-week inter-university programme from October to December 2025

	UNIFORCE	Teams			
Project Challenge Timeline	Aug/Se	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2026
Programme Launch	Aug 04th				
Campaign and awareness					
Submission deadline: project proposal		Oct 4th			
Judges review proposal		06th-15th			
Project delivery by teams 8weeks		15th Oct - 15th Dec			
Mid Report review			Nov 15 th		
Finalist Announced			Nov 26 th		
Submission of final report				Dec15th	
Announcement of winners					Jan 30th
Award Night + Presentation to Employers of labour.					

PART C

Marking Criteria breakdown (Impact Analysis)

a. **Proposal criteria** (Maximum words = 750, **Maximum attainable mark = 45**)

Criteria	Mark	Excellent (10)	Good (6)
Project purpose and definition.	10	A project definition that <i>perfectly</i> aligns with the theme “Project for sustainable Scotland”	A definition that closely align with the theme.
Objectives, and Project schedule	10	Achievable within the project timeline of “8weeks”	Somewhat achievable within the project timeline “8weeks”
Risks and opportunities	10	notable opportunities and demonstration of great possibilities for managing risk.	Few opportunities with low-medium level risk, that is manageable.
Planned resources	10	Resource is within reach, budget don’t exceed £200	Resources are manageable, fairly within reach, budget is between £200-£250.
Success Criteria/ KPIs	5	Meet at least one of the pillars of sustainability (Social, economic and environmental)	

b. **Mid Report** (Maximum word count= 500. **Maximum attainable mark= 30**)

Criteria	Marks (total)	
Progress and Change management	10	Have demonstrated coping mechanism associated with changes and challenges in project delivery.
Team and stakeholder management	10	Have demonstrated effective people’s management (internal and external) stakeholders.

Time and resources management	10	Team has highlighted achievement with planned resources within project schedule.
-------------------------------	----	--

c. **Final Report** (Maximum word= 300. **Maximum attainable mark= 25**)

Criteria	Mark allocated (Team to Pick one)	Team have satisfactorily met at least one of the pillars of sustainability e.g. (Social, Economic or environmental sustainability) and their success criteria in submitted proposal.
Social Sustainability	25	
Economic Sustainability	25	
Environmental Sustainability	25	

Total	
Proposal	45mark
Mid-report	30mark
Final report	25mark
Total	100mark

Your submission review timeline

Judging Panel Review		
Proposal	Mid-report	Final Report
Oct 4th-Oct16th	Nov 15th - Nov 25th	Dec 15th 2025 – Jan 15th 2026
Judges to help participating team accomplish their project through valuable feedback and comment on areas of improvement		

Milestone and Important Deadlines *(please bear in mind)*



Thanks.

Uniforce

Initiative.uniforce@gmail.com

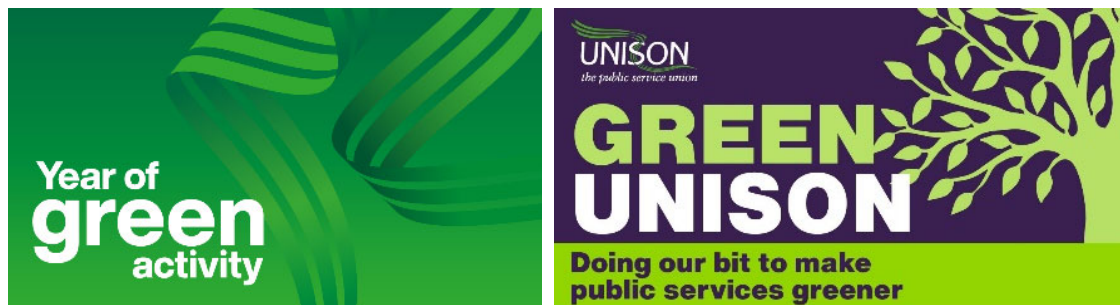
Chika Marvis – Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland, UK

c.marvis@napier.ac.uk

Participating Students' Associations/Unions



Sponsors:



Partners



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is there a maximum number of team members?

Yes, teams must have 3 to 7 members in any other participating universities listed.

2. I'm interested but don't have a team, can I still apply? Absolutely! If you're a student or recent graduate from one of the participating universities, we can help you connect with others from your institution to form a team based on availability.

3. What counts as a recent graduate? Anyone who graduated within the last two years.

4. Can my team work on a project we've designed ourselves? Yes, this is the core of the programme! You're encouraged to propose and execute original, innovative ideas that address real world challenges for Scotland.

5. I'm not a student at the participating universities but study at another Scottish university, can I join? Yes, but with a condition. You can join if you're part of a team made up mostly of participants from the official universities. That means at least 3 out of 4 team members or 5 out of 7 team members must belong to the participating institutions. eligibility can be verified through student email addresses.

6. Can we choose any challenge or are there set themes? You'll have full creative freedom within the overarching theme: *Projects for a Sustainable Scotland*. Whether you're interested in tech, social inclusion, creative arts, environmental impact, health, or education. Your team can define the challenge you want to tackle.

7. What support is available during the 8-week challenge? Each team will have access to a submission templates (proposal, mid-term, final), and optional outreach support by tagging our social handle and partners. Your Students' Association may also offer access to space, equipment, or skill-based workshops.

8. Is the challenge graded or assessed like coursework? No grades, *just impact*! Projects are reviewed by a jury panel including academics and sector experts. Awards are combination or any of innovation, community impact, future-focus, energy efficiency, and Scotland sustainability contribution.

9. What do winning teams receive? Beyond bragging rights, Certificates for all participants, Cash prizes for top student, Innovation boost via sponsors, Formal pitch opportunities at

the Award Night, and lots more. Most Importantly, gain recognised professional UK work experience to enhance your employability, organizational and business management skills.

10. Can non-Scottish students apply? Currently, eligibility is limited to students based in Scotland (whether you're domestic or international). Just officially enrolled or graduated (within the past 2 years) from Participating Scottish institutions listed.

11. What's the expected project timeline? **Proposal Submission:** August – October 2025, **Programme Period:** October 15th – December 15th, 2025, **Final Presentations & Award Ceremony:** January 2026 in Edinburgh.