

Ontario Centre of Innovation

OVIN – Talent Strategy & Workforce Development

<https://www.ovinhub.ca/programs/automotive-innovation-challenge/>

Automotive Innovation Challenge Information Session – Applicant Questions:

1. Question: Regarding industry contribution, can it be in-kind or should it be in-cash?

Answer: Contributions from industry can be in-kind.

2. Question: Does it have to be one private company we can work with, or can we work with a consortium?

Answer: Applicants are required to work with at least one industry partner. Multiple industry partners are also acceptable.

3. Question: For stream 1, when it says ‘minimum 100 students across all challenges’ does this mean 100 per term, or 100 total?

Answer: The minimum participation requirement is per term.

4. Question: What is the definition of Ontario-based with regards to the private sector?

Answer: Industry partners must have an established presence and business operations in Ontario.

5. Question: Can you please confirm the breakdown of the matching funds from the industry partner? If the contribution amount is 100k, what % of that can be in-kind?

Answer: No cash contribution is required.

6. Question: Do applicants complete the same application for Stream 1 & Stream 2?

Answer: Applicants must complete a separate application for Stream 1 & Stream 2.

7. Question: To confirm, would we need 100 students working on a project?

Answer: The minimum student requirement is in reference to the number of participants engaged in the program.

8. Question: Does there need to be a separate application for the fall and winter cohorts of Stream 1?

Answer: Applicants must complete separate applications for the fall and winter cohorts of Stream 1, adhering to the separate application windows (July 14th, 2025 & September 15th, 2025).

9. Question: Can you explain more about this piece in Stream 2: Confirmed placements and pathways?

Answer: Students will be offered structured work-integrated learning placements that align with industry hiring needs (ex: Co-op, internship, or embedded placement opportunities) that are focused on training, mentorship, real-world deliverables, and career development.

10. Question: We are a small business looking to collaborate with a post-secondary institution but we can't accommodate 25 students for work placements; can we partner with another company to meet the minimum requirement?

Answer: In order to receive the maximum level of funding, applicants must engage at least 25 student participants. Applicants can feel free to work with multiple industry partners to reach this requirement.

11. Question: Can things like equipment, technology, and hardware be counted as in-kind contributions?

Answer: Yes.