

FUTURE ANYTHING



**ACTIVATE 2021**  
**National Finals**  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Edition 2 - 15 September 2021

# FUTURE ANYTHING

## ACTIVATE 2021 NATIONAL FINALS FAQ

Edition 1 - 15 September 2021

To check for the latest version of the FAQ, please visit <https://futureanything.com/Activate-2021-info/#finals>

Q. What are the National Finals? .....	2
Q. Which students can apply for the 2021 National Finals? .....	3
Q. What is the application process for the National Finals? .....	3
Q. Who are the judges? .....	3
Q. What are the judging guidelines? .....	4
Q. What, and when, are the Semi Finals? Who is selected? .....	4
Q. When will Semi Finalists be informed? .....	4
Q. What, and when, is the National Grand Final? Who is selected? .....	4
Q. How many Grand Finalists will be selected? .....	6
Q. Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback? .....	6
Q. Who can attend the National Grand Final? .....	6
Q. Do students have to apply for the National Finals with the same business idea they developed during the Activate program? .....	6
Q. What are the prizes? .....	7
Q. Is there any support for students from other areas to participate in the Grand Final in Brisbane? .....	7
Q. How can I support my students to give them the best chance of success? .....	7
Q. What pathways are available to our students after the Grand Final? .....	7
Q. I have a question that wasn't answered here. What do I do? .....	7

### Q. What are the National Finals?

**A.** The 2021 National Finals are the culmination of Activate 2021. They are a high profile, high energy celebration of the creativity, passion and ingenuity of your young people.

The National Finals will take place over two rounds:

- ▲ National Semi Finals (c 40-45 teams)
- ▲ National Grand Final (c 16-20 teams)



[Click here to watch a summary of the 2019 National Grand Final](#)

[Click here to watch the 2020 National Grand Final](#)

[Or check out the 'Enterprises' page of our website to see pitches from all finals](#)

[return to FAQ menu](#)

#### Q. Which students can apply for the 2021 National Finals?

**A.** Any Activate student or team can apply to the Grand Final.

They can apply individually or in a group (the maximum group size is **four**).

Applicants do NOT need to have been a winner from their school showcase event. In fact, we encourage ALL students to apply – not just those which teachers consider to be the strongest team or idea.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

#### Q. What is the application process for the National Finals?

**A.** Applications are submitted online via a form with a series of simple questions that mimic the same structure as a pitch. Students can also upload a business logo, team photo and/or images of any prototypes if they choose.

Info about, and applications for, the 2021 National Finals are open here:

[www.futureanything.com/national-finals-2021-applications/](http://www.futureanything.com/national-finals-2021-applications/)

Applications for the 2021 National Finals close on Friday 17 September at 11pm AEST.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

#### Q. Who are the judges?

**A.** There will be different judges for the Semi Finals events and the National Grand Final.

Judges for each phase will be announced in due course. They will be a diverse group of entrepreneurs, changemakers and thought leaders who are freely giving their time to support the next generation of Aussie entrepreneurs.

Previous judges have included Jan Owen (CEO, Foundation for Young Australian), Leanne Kemp (Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur), and James Bartle (CEO Outland Denim).

[return to FAQ menu](#)



### Q. What are the judging guidelines?

A. Judges at each stage of the selection process make their decisions based on the [Finals Judging Rubric here \(PDF\)](#).

[return to FAQ menu](#)

### Q. What, and when, are the Semi Finals? Who is selected?

A. The Semi Finals will feature c. 40 teams. These teams will be selected from all applications received by an independent panel of judges. The judging panel will be announced soon.

**Due to ongoing risks of snap lockdowns across Australia, to provide certainty for planning purposes, all Semi Finals will take place online (via Zoom) over two days as follows:**

- ▲ **Monday 25 October**
- ▲ **Thursday 28 October**

All Semi Finals follow the same format. Teams will each give a 3-minute pitch then face questions from three independent judges.

Full details of the Semi Finals including all event logistics will be shared with all selected Semi Finalists in early October.

The **winner** of each Semi Final will progress to the National Grand Final as a **Pitching team**.

The **Runner Up / High Commended team(s)** from each Semi Final will progress to the National Grand Final as an **Exhibiting team**.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

### Q. When will Semi Finalists be informed?

A. We will contact all Semi Finalists (and their teachers) with details of their allocated Semi Final on Monday 4 October 2021.

Semi Finalists must accept their place / confirm their attendance at their allocated Semi Final by 2pm on Wednesday 6 October.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

### Q. What are the technical requirements for the online Semi Finals?

A. All Semi Finalists will be contacted with a full event pack including technical requirements. They will require access to Zoom. We know some schools (especially those on the EQ network)



require advance notice to unlock access to Zoom and we will provide as much information as possible on Monday 4 October.

In 2020, all our finals events took place on Zoom and every school was able to fully participate.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

## Q. What, and when, is the National Grand Final? Who is selected?

A. The Grand Final is the high-profile finale of Activate 2021.

It will take place on the evening of **Tuesday 23 November at QUT Gardens Theatre, 2 George St, Brisbane City QLD 4000**

6- 8 'Pitching' Grand Finalists will feature. These teams will be the winners of each of the Semi Finals. These teams will deliver short pitches (with or without slides) and will then respond to questions from a high-profile panel of judges.

From this group, the Grand Final Winner and Runner Up will be selected by the expert judging panel.



2019 Pitching Grand Finalists

12-14 'Exhibiting' Grand Finalists will showcase their enterprise via a display. These teams will be the Runners Up and Highly Commended teams from each of the Semi Finals.

The Grand Final audience will be invited to vote for their favourite Exhibiting Grand Finalist. The team that amasses the highest number of votes will win the People's Choice Award.



At this stage (June 2021), due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we are still planning for the Grand Final. The above outline is provided for illustrative purposes.

Future Anything is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of all our participants and we will continue to monitor official advice on mass gatherings. Our goal remains to deliver a physical event if it is considered safe (and practical) to do so.

Whether online or in person, the Grand Final will be a high energy, inspiring event that celebrates the innovative ideas and hard work of Activate students.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. How many Grand Finalists will be selected?**

**A.** There will be 6-8 Pitching Grand Finalists (from which the overall Winner & Runner Up are selected).

There will also be 12-14 Exhibiting Grand Finalists (from which the People's Choice Winner is selected).

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?**

**A.** Unsuccessful applicants can seek feedback from Future Anything following the completion of the National Grand Final.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. Who can attend the National Grand Final?**

**A.** The event will be a high profile, exciting night open to teachers, students, families/ caregivers and the startup, innovation and education ecosystems. Full details of registration for the event will be announced in due course.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. Do students have to apply for the National Finals with the same business idea they developed during the Activate program?**

**A.** No. We recognise and encourage students to 'pivot' their ideas to respond to feedback, and therefore understand that ideas evolve past the assessment submission at a school level.

To enable this, students can apply with a new/different idea for the National Finals (compared to what they presented at a school showcase) if they choose to.

Applications can also be saved/edited up until the closing deadline (11pm AEST, Friday 17 September).



Some previous Finalists have even made significant pivots to their ideas even on the day of their Finals - often with great success!

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. What are the prizes?**

**A.** Prizes for the National Grand Final are a mixture of mentoring, coaching opportunities and cold hard cash! The prize pot will be in excess of \$5000 and will include cash plus support to help students launch their businesses in the real world.

Prizes will be awarded to the Winner, Runner Up, People's Choice - and there may be some extra surprises on the night.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. Is there any support for students from other areas to participate in the Grand Final in Brisbane?**

**A.** If the National Grand Final goes ahead as a physical event in Brisbane, we will work with finalists' schools, caregivers, sponsors and local partners to ensure Grand Finalist teams from outside SE QLD can fully participate in the event.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. How can I support my students to give them the best chance of success?**

**A.** We suggest taking some time to support teams to fill out their online application. The best applications are clear, concise and address the questions in the [judging rubric here \(PDF\)](#).

Historically, the most successful teams have been those that have demonstrated that they have put themselves out there and have generated some traction already. This can be securing small amounts of seed funding from your local Chambers of Commerce, pre-selling their first run of product, securing formal partnerships with suppliers and charity partners, and building or creating physical prototypes or an MVP.

In saying all of that, the winning ideas each year have always been from **passionate** entrepreneurs with ideas that have **potential**. We encourage applicants to convey their passion and personal connection to the problem, in addition to presenting an idea that is financially viable and has an interesting point of difference.

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. What pathways are available to our students after the Grand Final?**

**A.** All students can apply for YouthX, Australia's only startup accelerator program for school aged entrepreneurs. YouthX is an opportunity to take your idea out of the classroom and into the real world with a team of champions backing you. You can see more about YouthX [here](#)

[return to FAQ menu](#)

**Q. I have a question that wasn't answered here. What do I do?**

**A.** Get in touch! We love to hear your questions and feedback. Feel free to email us at [hello@futureanything.com](mailto:hello@futureanything.com) and we'll be in touch!



[return to FAQ menu](#)

