



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Participants

Co-organised by:



THE SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY



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**A) Essentials**

1. **When and where will ASEFSU23 take place?**

The [23<sup>rd</sup> ASEF Summer University](#) consists of 2 phases for Participants, and will take place virtually.

The Hackathon includes three phases:

  - 1) **Pre-hack Phase (11-29 Oct 2021): Ideation**, including Challenge definition, knowledge building & stakeholder engagement
  - 2) **Hackathon Phase (4-14 Nov 2021) with Grand Finale (12-14 Nov 2021): Prototype Development with Experts Mentoring**
  - 3) **Post-hack Phase (up to 3 months post-Hackathon): Prototype Testing** and possible implementation, including Mentoring collaboration with local partners
  
2. **I’m interested, what now?**

Seize the opportunity and submit your online application [here!](#)
  
3. **When is the deadline to apply?**

We accept applications until **Sunday, 3 October 2021, UTC 23:59.**

Keep an eye out for the confirmation email upon your successful submission; if you do not receive it, it might have landed in your junk/spam folder.
  
4. **When will the results of selection be out?**

We will announce the application outcome through email by Thursday, 7 October 2021.

You will receive an email with your result. Also, don’t forget to like/follow our [ASEFEdu Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#) for all the latest updates.

**B) Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

- 5. What are the eligibility criteria?** You have to meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:
- Be a citizen of any of the [51 Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\) Partner countries](#)
  - A young professional, entrepreneur or student, between ages 18-30
  - Excellent command of English (written and verbal)
  - Available to actively participate in all sessions in both phases
- 6. What are the selection criteria?** When assessing applicants and selecting potential candidates, ASEF and its partners will particularly look out for:
- A motivational statement characterised by authentic, original and substantial arguments
  - Current or past extra-curricular (and/or professional) activities that demonstrate action-oriented engagement in the local community and or regional/international context
  - Knowledge in Sustainable Development and/or fields linked to Sustainable Urbanisation is of advantage

The Open Call and the screening process adopt a non-discriminative approach ensuring a geographic and gender balance representation, and fair access to all. In doing so, the organisers do not discriminate any applicant or participant on the basis of his or her race, national origin (ancestry), colour, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, religion (creed), marital status, or age.

- 7. How many participants will be selected?** ~70 participants will be selected from all 51 ASEM countries.
- 8. I do not have experience in Hackathons/ Sustainable Urbanisation. Can I still apply?** Yes. While we seek individuals with a certain level of knowledge and experience in both the relevant hard and soft skills, we are open to accepting those with less experience, provided they demonstrate strong motivation.
- 9. I am older than 30 years old. Am I still eligible to apply?** This particular programme is addressed to youth between 18-30 years old, however if you are above 30 and believe you could make a great contribution, we encourage you to still apply. Please bear in mind, however, that we will prioritise applications from those who are a closer fit to the eligibility criteria.
- 10. I am younger than 18 years old. Am I still eligible to apply?** All the ASEF youth projects require a minimum age of 18. But do not worry, we have lots of exciting projects lined up for the coming years, so you will have plenty of opportunity to apply!
- You can sign up for the [ASEF eNewsletter](#) and [ASEFEdu mailing list](#), as well as follow the [ASEFEdu Facebook](#) and [ASEF Facebook](#) pages for more Open Calls and opportunities in the future.
- 11. I am an ASEM country national living in a non-** Definitely! As long as you are an ASEM national, you may apply regardless of your country of residence. If you currently study abroad in the framework of an exchange or degree programme, you are eligible to apply. However,

- ASEM country. Am I eligible to apply?** please keep in mind the timings of the programme elements and the time zone you are residing in.
- 12. I am a non-ASEM country national living in an ASEM country. Am I eligible to apply?** Only nationals of the 51 ASEM Partner countries are eligible to apply. See [the list of countries here](#).
- 13. I have not been involved in any activities related to ASEF/ASEM before. Can I still apply?** Of course! We always seek to gather a diverse group, including unusual profiles. From our experience, multicultural and cross-disciplinary groups learn and benefit the most from our educational projects. At ASEF, we seek people with fresh and innovative ideas, regardless of their educational, professional or social background. For ASEFSU23 we seek people who are willing to share & enhance their knowledge & skills in peer-to-peer learning environments, keen on rolling up their sleeves, pitching in and actively contributing to Sustainable Development.
- 14. Will you be conducting interviews?** Yes, we may reach out to applicants for an interview.

### C) Programme

- 15. What does the programme look like?** Please refer to the [Overview](#) document which has a detailed schedule of the programme for ASEFSU23 Participants.
- 16. What are the commitments during the programme?** Participants are required to actively take part in the Pre-Hack and Hackathon Phases, which include the following elements;
- Pre-Hack Phase (11-29 Oct 2021): Ideation**, including challenge definition, knowledge building & stakeholder engagement
- During this 3-week long phase, Participants will be required to commit an average of 6 hours per week, excluding assignments. Sessions will take place from Monday to Wednesday at 9am-11am UTC. Those participants who wish to receive a micro-credential from University College Cork will have to commit additional hours.
- Hackathon Phase (4-14 Nov 2021) with Grand Finale (12-14 Nov 2021): Prototype Development with Experts Mentoring**
- This Phase includes several elements:
1. Kick-off event on 5 Nov 2021
  2. Mentorship sessions, community engagements & team building sessions, *when needed*, between 6-11 Nov 2021
  3. Grand Finale to develop prototypes from 12-14 Nov 2021
  4. Presentation & pitching of solutions event on 15 Nov 2021
- Post-Hack (up to 3 months post-Hackathon; relevant for Hackathon Winners only):** Hackathon winners have the possibility for mentoring sessions and prototype testing & possible implementation after the project.

- 17. My schedule will not allow me to join all sessions, can I still apply?** Your fulfilment and success in the programme will largely depend on your active participation. Hence, we expect you to participate in all sessions. Also in view of the fact that this is a certified course, there is mandatory attendance.
- If for whatever reason you may not be able to join, it is expected that you inform the organisers in advance and catch up on anything missed.
- 18. Is there any travel involved in this programme?** No, this programme will take place completely virtually.
- 19. What will I get out of the ASEFSU23 programme?** You will
- Find **solutions to real-life urban challenges** and create meaningful social impact
  - Receive training by **experts on Sustainable Urbanisation** in Bangladesh, India & Pakistan
  - Receive **intellectual & technical mentorship on the Hackathon** throughout the programme
  - Get a **certification of participation** from [ASEF](#), [Daffodil International University \(DIU\)](#), [KREA University](#), [Superior University](#), [the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub](#), [University of Glasgow](#), and [the Hanns Seidel Foundation \(HSS\)](#)
  - Receive **10 microcredits from [University College Cork \(UCC\)](#)**, as an additional optional programme element
  - **Collaborate and network** with youth from 51 countries
  - Contribute your views to **an ASEM-wide Youth Report** as a joint research study between ASEF and the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub
- 20. What awards will I receive?** If you are part of one of the winning teams, you will receive mentoring by tech companies for further development of the prototype developed during the Hackathon. You will also receive certified training opportunities for digital leadership or digital perks.
- 21. How do I prepare for the programme? What do I need?** We require all selected Participants to be prepared in the 3 following areas:
1. Technical Accessibility  
The ASEFSU23 programme is completely virtual in all phases. Hence, it is necessary that the Participants have excellent accessibility to teleconferencing facilities (working laptop/desktop, webcam & microphone) with stable internet connectivity.
  2. Content Preparation  
Participants are expected to participate in all activities – and complete individual and team tasks in a timely manner to contribute to the programme’s success.

### 3. Time Commitment

It is crucial to the outcomes and design of the programme that Participants make a commitment to be present throughout the ASEFSU23 Programme. Please review the dates and times we have shared in the [Overview](#). As there will be assignments and research, Participants must ensure they can allocate sufficient time to meet all the learning objectives each week.

- 22. Is this programme accredited?** Upon completion of the full ASEFSU23 programme, Participant will receive a Certificate jointly issued by [ASEF](#), [Daffodil International University \(DIU\)](#), [KREA University](#), [Superior University](#), [University of Glasgow](#), [the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub](#), and [the Hanns Seidel Foundation \(HSS\)](#) in the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEF Summer University.
- In addition, those Participants who opted for the micro-credential, will receive 10 ECTS from [University College Cork \(UCC\)](#) Ireland, upon successful completion of the different assignments. See [Section D](#) for more information on the Micro-credential.
- 23. How big will the Hackathon teams be?** There will be 12 Hackathon Teams, each with 1 Hackathon Team Leader and up to 7 participants from Asia and Europe.
- 24. Can I choose which challenge I work on?** No, the Organisers will allocate the Hackathon Teams to ensure fair balance of experience, disciplines, geographical and gender diversity.
- You can read more details about the Challenges [here](#).
- 25. Can I work on more than one Challenge?** No, each Participant will only work to solve 1 Challenge.
- 26. Are there any commitments or opportunities after the project to stay engaged?** After the programme is completed, there are no commitments, but we of course hope that the ASEFSU23 will have inspired you to take a leap further with initiatives and action among your peers.
- ASEFSU23 participants will become alumni of ASEFEdu and have the opportunity to join in various capacities including but not limited to:
- **ASEM Ministerial meetings/High-level forums**  
Possibility to be invited to official ASEM meeting and to present a youth perspective and/or to engage with senior government officials and policy makers.
  - **Alumni-led initiatives**  
Build networks with our ASEF community and continue the international exchanges of ideas through online and offline platforms.
- We always strive to understand the impact of our projects and may get in touch with former participants to conduct impact assessments.

## **D) Micro-credential**

- 27. Can I receive academic credits for my participation in ASEFSU23?**
- Yes, this is an optional element of the ASEFSU23 programme. As ASEFSU23 participant, you will have the opportunity to register as student at University College Cork (UCC) and receive a micro-credential with 10 ECTS credits.
- 28. What is a micro-credential and what can I do with it?**
- A micro-credential is a qualification which demonstrates learning outcomes acquired through an assessed course or module. Micro-credentials may be completed on-site, online or in a blended format. Micro-credentials are offered by higher and vocational education & training (VET) institutions, as well as by private organisations.
- UCC micro-credentials are awards assigning ECTS credits to students who successfully completed a course or module. These ECTS credits are recognised internationally. You may use them to gain credit exemptions for other programmes (subject to agreement with your host institution).
- Micro-credentials may also be included in your CV as a demonstration of your ongoing lifelong learning and commitment to your personal and professional development.
- 29. What is ECTS credits and is it recognised worldwide?**
- ECTS stands for European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. It is a tool of the European Higher Education Area for making studies and courses more transparent. It helps students to move between countries and to have their academic qualifications and study periods abroad recognised. ECTS allows credits taken at one higher education institution to be counted towards a qualification at another institution.
- ECTS has been adopted by most countries in the European Higher Education Area as the national credit system and is increasingly used elsewhere.
- Click [here](#) for more information.
- 30. What is the profile of University College Cork?**
- University College Cork is a leading university in Ireland ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world. According to a recent ranking from Times Higher Education which examines the impact of universities through the prism of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UCC is now the 8th most impactful university in the world.
- Click [here](#) for more information about UCC.
- 31. What are my different options of participation?**
- As an ASEFSU23 Participant, you will be able to choose between 2 different options according to your needs:
1. *Basic Participation*: participation without enrolment in any credits-bearing Module
  2. *Full Participation*: participation with enrolment in one 10 ECTS Credits Module
- 32. What is Basic Participation and what certification will I get?**
- As ASEFSU23 Participant, you can choose not to enrol in any credits-bearing Module at University College Cork. If you choose this option, you will not receive any micro-credential with ECTS Credits, but you will still receive a certificate of participation (provided that you meet the attendance & participation requirements).



You will obtain a certificate of participation jointly issued by [ASEF](#), [UCC](#), [Daffodil International University \(DIU\)](#), [KREA University](#), [Superior University College \(SUC\)](#), [University of Glasgow](#), [the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub](#), and [the Hanns Seidel Foundation \(HSS\)](#).

**33. What is Full Participation and what certification will I get?**

If you decide to go for the Full Participation, you will enrol in one 10-credit Module at UCC. The module is an intensive and comprehensive programme comprising two interconnected components. The first part an interdisciplinary introduction on Sustainable Urbanisation in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Combining interactive knowledge building sessions with project-based learning, it will provide Participants with a holistic & people-centred understanding of Sustainable Urbanisation with a geographical focus on Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The second part focuses on Leadership skills for transforming cities. The second part is designed as a reflective learning experience for participants to understand Leadership as a multidimensional concept, while reflecting on their own Leadership style and how to leverage it to transform urban communities. As part of this Leadership development process, students will learn how to develop themselves as Global Citizens and to connect their local urban issues with larger global challenges, while strengthening their intercultural competences and team collaboration skills.

The workload for a 10-credit module at UCC is around 200-300 hours (including contact hours, student study and examining time). This includes the time you will dedicate for the Knowledge Building Phase and the Hackathon, as well as the different assignments of Module 2.

Compared to Basic Participation, you will have several additional assignments (3 individual assignments, 1 pair assignment and 1 group assignment).

This Module is a very significant commitment in terms of workload which should not be underestimated. If you decide to choose this option, you will need to make sure that you can commit the necessary working hours.

Upon successful completion of the Module, you will receive a Certificate in Continuing Professional Development from University College Cork. You will receive a student transcript from UCC and an award parchment from UCC and the National University of Ireland.

**34. How do I indicate what sort of participation I would like to do?**

If you are selected as an ASEFSU23 participant, you will be asked to indicate your choice during registration.

## **E) Accessibility**

**35. Will the programme be fully accessible?**

We aim to make all our projects as accessible as possible and accommodate all needs of participants. We will therefore request all selected Participants to provide us with their special requirements.

**36. I have special needs, can I apply?**

Yes, we encourage everybody to apply, as we believe in the power of mixed-ability partnerships and collaborations.

- 37. Can I submit the application via other methods besides the online form?** To allow us to assess the applications smoothly, all applications need to be completed in English and submitted through the online form provided. However, if you have any needs related to the accessibility of the form, please get in touch with us and we will try to assist you accordingly.

## **F) Honorarium & Leave Support Letter**

- 38. Is there a participation fee?** There are no participation or registration fees. This is a fully funded project, including the issuance of certificates.
- 39. Can I receive a support letter to submit to my university/workplace?** Upon request, we can provide a letter entailing engagement in the full programme, including support for taking leave if necessary.

## **G) Further Enquiries**

- 40. I have other questions!** Do drop us an email at [asefsu@asef.org](mailto:asefsu@asef.org)

*Note: this is a dynamic document which might be updated with further questions, raised by interested applicants.*

**If everything is clear, click below to apply now!**

**Apply**

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### Visual Explainer

Yarns are a symbol of the cotton production and textile industry in South Asia which greatly contributed to its economy and opening up to the rest of the world. Along with this evolution, the region's growing urbanisation has been a driving force, reshaping modern cities and societies.

Like a fabric with its distinct pattern, a city is a network of interdependencies and intertwined social interactions: a complex eco-system where every element is closely connected to each other. This intricate crisscross is a fragile equilibrium contingent on every thread which needs to be carefully sewn and integrated within the broader structure. To shape urban frameworks and images, urban policy makers and planners need intentionality and a comprehensive understanding of all its constituting elements. To weave and build liveable cities for a sustainable future, holistic and transformative visions are needed. Our ASEFSU23 participants will develop these for Bangladesh, India and Pakistan during the project.