

III INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF STUDENT AND YOUNG RESEARCHER PROJECTS “SMART CITY 2030: MANAGING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE BRICS COUNTRIES”

INFORMATION NOTE AND CALL FOR ENTRIES. SMART CITY 2030 is an international educational and innovation platform initiated by Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University. It brings together students, postgraduate students and young researchers to develop practical, interdisciplinary solutions to the socioeconomic, environmental and technological challenges facing BRICS cities.

Official website: <https://www.smartcity2030.tech>

1. Competition at a glance

Official title	III International Competition of Student and Young Researcher Projects “SMART CITY 2030: Managing Sustainable Urban Development in the BRICS Countries”.
Co-organisers	Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (Russia); Lovely Professional University (India); Tsinghua University (China); Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).
Who may enter	Students of all modes of study, postgraduate students, applicants, young researchers and professionals up to 35 years of age.
Participation format	Individual participation or teams of up to five members. Where the author is a student, a research supervisor must be named.
Working language	English.
Project focus	A complete analytical project addressing a specific urban problem in a named city located in a BRICS country.
Planning horizon	Not more than ten years, with the authors’ own forecast of the city’s development.
Final	5–6 October 2026, Moscow, within Tech Science Forum 2026; blended on-site and online format.
Submission e-mail	smartcity2030@yandex.ru
Entry deadline	10 September 2026.

2. Competition tracks

- Intelligent and creative urban development:** human-centred urban planning, creative industries, digital governance, education, culture and inclusive development.
- Safe and comfortable urban environment:** public safety, environmental quality, climate resilience, health, accessible public spaces and quality of life.
- Smart-city technologies and services:** digital public services, AI, IoT, data platforms, municipal management, waste systems and citizen-oriented solutions.
- Energy and transport infrastructure:** energy efficiency, renewable energy, smart grids, sustainable mobility, public transport and logistics.

3. What must be submitted

- The completed analytical project in Microsoft Word format (*.doc or *.docx), named after the team.
- The application form and participant questionnaire, completed in full.
- A signed consent to personal data processing from each team member and, where applicable, from the research supervisor.

4. Mandatory project structure

- Project title; team name; selected track; city and country.
- Abstract and 5–8 keywords.
- Introduction: definition of the urban problem and justification of its relevance.

- Literature review: current research, legal acts, statistics and factual evidence.
- Project objective and measurable tasks.
- Methodology: methods, technologies, implementation stages, resources, stakeholders and risk assessment.
- Results and discussion: socioeconomic analysis, public opinion, constraints and the authors' forecast.
- Conclusions and recommendations: expected outcomes, monitoring mechanism and assessment of feasibility.
- Acknowledgements and references.

5. Formal requirements

- The project must concern a specific city in one of the BRICS countries.
- Originality must be at least 75%; self-citation must not exceed 10%.
- Full academic referencing is required for quotations, figures, statistics and legal acts.
- Review papers and abstract-only submissions are not accepted.
- Failure to comply with the formal requirements may result in rejection before expert review.

6. Timeline

Date	Stage
By 10 September 2026	Submission of entries for the qualifying round.
By 15 September 2026	Peer review and selection of finalists; the shortlist is published through the official competition channels.
5–6 October 2026	International final within Tech Science Forum 2026 in Moscow. Up to 16 teams may be invited to defend their projects in a blended on-site and online format.
6 October 2026, 11:00 Moscow time	Presentation of the best projects and the award ceremony in a blended format.

7. How projects are evaluated

The international Expert Council evaluates entries on a 95-point scale. The principal criteria are:

- clarity and relevance of the urban problem;
- quality of socioeconomic analysis and analysis of public opinion;
- identification of development constraints;
- quality of the project objective and tasks;
- methods, technologies and implementation stages;
- resource analysis and stakeholder roles;
- risk assessment;
- evidence for expected outcomes and a mechanism for monitoring change;
- overall feasibility and realism.

The Expert Council includes academics from the four co-organising universities together with representatives of municipal authorities, business and industry associations from BRICS countries. It may also establish special nominations.

8. Awards and participant opportunities

- Diplomas and prizes for winners; certificates for all participants.
- Presentation of projects to an international audience of academics, policymakers and industry representatives.
- Professional networking and possible continuation of promising ideas through university and partner cooperation.
- Contribution to practical strategies for sustainable and inclusive urban development in BRICS countries.

9. Requested action from universities and partner organisations

- Announce and circulate the call among students, postgraduate students, young researchers and professionals.
- Nominate an institutional contact person to coordinate submissions with the Organising Committee.
- Support the formation of interdisciplinary teams and identify research supervisors where required.
- Propose qualified candidates for the international Expert Council.

10. Submission and contact

Entries and supporting documents: smartcity2030@yandex.ru

Official competition website: <https://www.smartcity2030.tech>

Competition coordinator: Dr. Olga T. Ergunova

E-mail: smartcity2030@yandex.ru | Phone: +7 (982) 612-83-21