2026 Omnicane Award Rules and Regulations

Inter-College Project Competition

THEME:

"At Omnicane's 100 Year Milestone, what should be preserved and what must be rethought from this legacy? How can responsible, inclusive and sustainable innovation support and shape our common future?"

Call for Entries

1. The inter-college project competition is organised by Omnicane Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource.

2. Teams participating in the competition are expected to produce a PowerPoint presentation to support a 15-minute oral presentation on the above-mentioned theme and be prepared to make the oral presentation, should the team be shortlisted to do so by the Jury.

3. The competition is open to all registered colleges of the Republic of Mauritius but limited to pupils of Grades 11, 12 & 13 (or equivalent).

4. Each project shall be prepared by a team of **FIVE** students, one of whom shall be the Team Leader. Teams composed of more than, or less than, **FIVE** members will not be allowed to participate.

5. Projects should reflect the combined and joint effort of all five members of the respective teams.

6. A college may enter more than one team but shall not enter more than **FOUR** (4) teams.

7. **NO** student shall be allowed to be a member of more than **ONE** team.

8. With the objective of promoting a paperless competition, all projects shall be exclusively submitted online.

9. **The following file to be prepared in English:**

    i.   A 15-minute-long presentation on the theme of the competition in Microsoft PowerPoint format. (Maximum size: 15 MB).

    ii.   The opening slide shall include the Project Title, the College's name / logo and the first and last names of the five participants, the first and last name of the Project Leader being first on the list.

    iii.   The second slide to be the cover letter, in jpg format, signed by the Rector/Principal to endorse the project.

    iv.   The third to fifth slide to be an abstract, in jpg format, of the team's key findings and recommendations. The abstract should be between 750 and 1000 words in length.

    v.   A WORK DIARY - The Work Diary must be included after the Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation. It shall describe the work strategy of the team and list all visits and interviews with dates in chronological order together with an indication of what was gained therefrom. Any support or facilitation provided by a member of the college staff regarding interviews and visits shall be mentioned in the Work Diary.

10. **Indications concerning the PowerPoint slide show:**
    - There shall be a minimum of 20 slides and a maximum of 30 slides for the project itself, inclusive of the opening slide as well as of those used for photographs, graphics, videos, etc.;
    - The slides shall be properly numbered; and
    - The font-size of texts on slides shall be at least Arial 24 points.

11. The PowerPoint slide show may include a **MAXIMUM** of **TWO** (2) videos. Each video shall not be longer than **THIRTY** (30) seconds. Students are advised not to embed the videos in their PowerPoint slide show in order not to increase the size of the PPT file beyond the limits specified in 9(i) above. Instead, videos may be uploaded on YouTube as hidden files, so that they may not be accessed publicly, and appropriate links included on the PPT slides.

12. Based on the projects entered by the participants, the jury will decide which teams should be invited to make an oral presentation of their project on the theme of the competition while using Microsoft PowerPoint facilities.

13. Each short-listed team will be invited to make an oral presentation of its project in the presence of the jury.

14. The results of the project competition will be announced during the prize-giving ceremony, to be organised during the month of September 2026.

15. The winning team will be expected to make the oral presentation of their project at the end of the prize-giving ceremony.

16. **Marks will be allotted on the following basis to short-list the best teams:**
    - Scope and methodology of research work involved (based on work diary and contents of Abstract and PowerPoint slideshow)…..............................(25 marks)
    - PowerPoint slides (restitution of main ideas, organisation of sections, and visual characteristics of graphs and illustrations).......................….......... (25 marks)
    - Understanding of issues posed, project approach and informative & practical value of comments and proposals (based on quality of contents, flow of ideas and innovative features.......................…........................….....................(50 marks)

17. **The short-listed teams will be marked for their oral presentation.** Marks will be attributed for:-
    - Presentation and communication skills, including presence and articulation
    - Visual support, including content of slides and their relevance
    - Key findings
    - Proposals and recommendations

18. **The decision of the jury shall be final and shall not be contested and/or changed.**

19. Participants are allowed to interview people and to collect information for the preparation of their project, but they should not in any way be helped in its planning, drafting and presentation. They will lose marks, or be disqualified, if, in the opinion of the jury, they have received undue assistance from their teachers or from outsiders.

20. **The Jury will be composed of:**
    - **Mr Fareed Jaunbocus (Chairperson)** – Chief Executive Officer, Strategos Ltd
    - **Mr. Lindsay Fayolle** – Former Chief Operations Officer, Omnicane Milling Operations Ltd
    - **Mr. Satyendra Peerthum –** Historian and Acting Head, Technical Unit at Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund for Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site

Prizes offered by Omnicane Foundation will be as follows:-

Winner:
- o To the college winning the competition: The Omnicane Challenge Trophy.
- o To the pupils forming part of the winning team: A total cash prize of Rs 100 000 (i.e. Rs 20 000 to each member of the team).

First runner-up:
- o A total cash prize of Rs 40 000 (i.e. Rs 8 000 to each pupil forming part of the team).

Second runner-up:
- o A total cash prize of Rs 10 000 (i.e. Rs 2 000 to each pupil forming part of the team).

21. Each team participating in the project competition shall receive an e-certificate of participation.

22. All projects including the endorsement letter (in pdf format) signed by the Rector/Principal shall be submitted online at the following address: www.omnicane.com/2026omnicaneaward.
Online submission will be open as from Wednesday 29 April 2026 at noon. Participants are advised to submit their projects as early as possible to avoid last minute rush.
Closing date: Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 11.59 a.m.
The organising committee shall not accept projects submitted after the due submission date.

23. **Briefing Session:**
- o Grade 11 and Grades 12 & 13 (or equivalent) students interested in participating in this Inter-College Project Competition as well as their teachers are kindly invited to attend a briefing session at Philippe Bonâme Hall of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, Réduit, on **Wednesday 4 March 2026** at **12.30 p.m.**

24. **Disclaimer for photographs & videos:**
- o Please note that photographs and footages will be taken during events related to the project competition and may be used by Omnicane for communication purposes by being published in the press, digital social platforms, websites and/or national television. Please contact our Data Protection Officer by email on dataprotection@omnicane.com should you wish not to be photographed or filmed during the events.

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