



2026

SWITCH GLOBAL COMPETITION

STUDENT SIGN-UP GUIDE

HOW TO SIGN UP, STEP BY STEP

Everything you need to do to compete in the 2026 Switch Global Competition, from raising your hand today to being ready on day one. The whole process takes about ten minutes of setup. The competition runs on The Grid, our digital community platform, so every step below ends there.

AUG 17

Registration opens

AUG 21 - SEP 9

Info sessions

SEP 11

Registration closes

SEP 14

Competition begins

DEC 5

Live finals

1

JOIN A LIVE INFO SESSION

AUG 21 TO SEP 9 • ONE HOUR ON ZOOM

Four live sessions walk you through the format, the key dates, what you'll submit in each round, and how to register, with your questions answered live. All four cover the same material, so scan the QR code and pick whichever time fits. The registration page converts times to your time zone, and every session is recorded if you cannot make it live.



SCAN TO JOIN

2

BUILD YOUR TEAM

BEFORE YOU REGISTER

Round up teammates from your university and pick a team leader who will handle registration. Energy poverty is not a single-discipline problem, and the strongest teams mix engineering, business, policy, environmental science, and beyond. You do not need to be an energy expert to compete: the integrated learning series teaches you the skills each round requires.

3

REGISTER YOUR TEAM

OPEN AUG 17 THROUGH SEP 11

Registration is open August 17 through September 11. Your team leader completes the Team Registration form: scan the QR code, or find the link on The Grid. Have your team roster and university details ready. Registration closes September 11, and there are no late additions, so do not wait until the final day.



SCAN TO REGISTER

4

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT ON THE GRID

AFTER YOU REGISTER

The Grid at switchedu.org is where the entire competition happens: case materials, submissions, announcements, webinars, and community discussion. Every team member creates their own account, not just the team leader. Sign up with the same email you used at registration so we can match you to your team, then complete your profile.

5

JOIN THE 2026 SWITCH COMPETITION HUB

INSIDE THE GRID

Once your account is live, scan the QR code to join the 2026 Switch Competition Hub group. One important note: you must create your Grid account first in order to join the group. The Hub is the home base for the competition: the case packet drops there, every round submission goes through it, and all announcements and deadlines post there first.



JOIN THE HUB

6

SHOW UP READY FOR KICKOFF

CASE PACKET DROPS SEP 14

The case packet releases on The Grid on September 14, with the kickoff event on September 15. Your first deliverable, the Round 1 country selection and energy analysis brief, is due September 27, and the Energy Analysis webinar on September 21 walks you through exactly how to approach it. Every webinar is recorded and posted to The Grid within 24 hours, so any time zone can compete.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Want the full walkthrough first? Join a live info session between August 21 and September 9 for a round-by-round tour of the competition and The Grid. Every session is recorded if you cannot make it live.
- Add zach.carr@switchon.org to your contacts so registration emails never land in spam.
- Follow us on LinkedIn: scan to follow the Switch Ambassador Network and Switch Energy Alliance for announcements, spotlights, and results.



SWITCH
AMBASSADOR
NETWORK



SWITCH
ENERGY
ALLIANCE

Questions? Reach out any time: zach.carr@switchon.org

We cannot wait to see what your team builds.