

School Summit Innovator Founding Partner Programme

For employers, universities, public bodies and professional bodies considering a Founding Partnership in the inaugural cycle.

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SCAN FOR THE LIVE PAGE

1 · What School Summit Innovator is

School Summit Innovator is a student innovation programme run across Northern Ireland during the 2027 cycle. Post-primary students submit ideas across seven pillars and forty-two categories; each category is led by a single exclusive partner organisation that helps shape the challenge brief, judges the finals and is named as the founder of that area of the programme.

The first twelve organisations to commit — at any level — become the permanent Founding Class. Founding status is only available during the inaugural cycle.

How the competition works

- Brief.** Each Founding Partner co-creates a category challenge brief with the School Summit team, rooted in a real problem in their sector.
- Launch.** Categories are unveiled to every post-primary school in Northern Ireland at the October 2026 School Summit.
- School engagement.** Students develop projects in school between January and May 2027 with teacher support.
- Submission & judging.** Entries submitted, shortlisted and judged between June and September 2027.
- Final.** Winners announced and awards presented at the October 2027 Final. Partner impact reporting begins.

Programme at a glance

CATEGORIES 42	PILLARS 7	FOUNDING PARTNERS 12
SCHOOLS ENGAGED 200+	STUDENTS ENGAGED 20,000+	ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED 100+

2 · Responsibilities

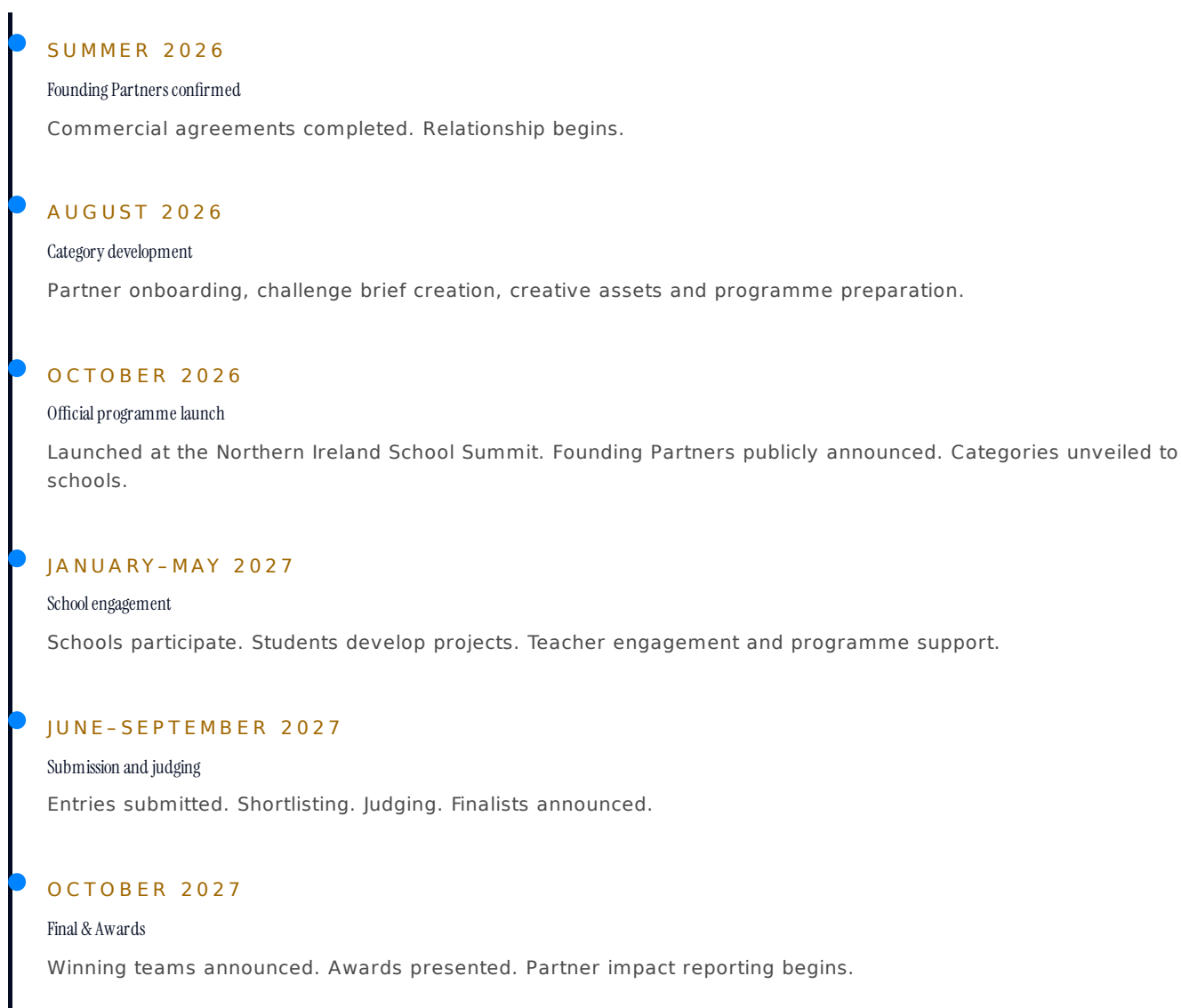
Founding Partnership is designed to be low-lift. School Summit runs the operational programme; the partner shapes the brief, judges the outcome and receives the recognition. **Typically two to three days of your team's time across the cycle** — spread from Summer 2026 through the October 2027 Final.

What the partner does	What School Summit manages
Co-create the challenge brief with the School Summit team so it reflects a real problem in your sector.	Facilitate the brief workshop. Translate your input into a school-ready brief and creative assets.
Nominate a representative to sit on the judging panel and present the award at the Final.	Run the entry, shortlisting and judging process end-to-end. Brief and support your judge.
Approve category naming, logos and public announcements before launch.	Announce Founding Partners at the October 2026 Northern Ireland School Summit and to every post-primary school in NI.

What the partner does	What School Summit manages
Provide one or two people for the October 2026 launch moment (optional but recommended).	Deliver the launch: main stage, official programme, professional photography, on-the-day production.
Host one Finalist Day — your category's shortlisted teams visit your organisation and present their work ahead of the Final (within the 2-3 days of team time).	Coordinate the Finalist Day with schools: logistics, safeguarding sign-off, agenda and travel.
Receive and circulate the annual impact report internally.	Produce the annual impact report — board-ready — summarising reach, engagement and outcomes.

Safeguarding: all student engagement runs through participating schools under their existing pastoral and safeguarding policies. Founding Partner personnel do not have direct unsupervised contact with students.

3 · Timeline



4 · Recognition & reporting

Permanent Founding recognition

Your place in the founding class is recorded permanently; active use of the Founding Partner mark continues while the partnership is maintained.

Category exclusivity

One partner per category, within Northern Ireland, for the partnership term — set out plainly in your agreement.

Judging seat

Your representative sits on the judging panel and presents the award at your category Final.

Launch announcement

Announced to every post-primary school in Northern Ireland through official School Summit channels and unveiled at the October 2026 launch.

Annual impact report

An annual written report summarising programme reach and engagement, suitable for board and internal stakeholders.

First refusal on renewal

First refusal on renewing your category, on pillar leadership when it launches in 2028, and priority as the programme expands.

Category winners receive their trophy and title at the October 2027 Final, together with an experience prize hosted within your organisation — agreed with your team at the brief workshop. Winners are inducted into the Innovator Hall of Fame — a permanent record of Northern Ireland's young talent and the organisations that founded their categories. The programme also presents the overall School Summit Innovator of the Year award, Teacher of the Year, and Innovator School of the Year.

5 · Partnership options

Tier	From	Summary
Category Partner	£15,000	Own one exclusive category. Named partner throughout the cycle.
Category Lead Partner RECOMMENDED	£25,000	Everything in Category Partner, plus enhanced visibility, launch moment at the October 2026 Summit, category award named after your organisation, and Founding-cycle pricing.
Principal Founding Partner	POA	Programme-wide leadership. "In partnership with [you]" across school communications, official programme and main stage. One organisation, by invitation.

Invoicing can be structured to suit your financial year, including split across signature and launch. Prices exclude VAT. Procurement documentation available on request. Founding-cycle pricing is the lowest the programme will ever be; rates rise once the Founding Class is filled, and again in the second cycle.

What happens after you confirm

1

Agreement issued

Commercial agreement and procurement documentation issued within days of confirmation.

2

Brief workshop

One 60–90 minute working session with your team to shape the challenge brief.

3

October 2026 launch

You are announced as a Founding Partner and your category is unveiled to schools.

4

Judging & Final

Your representative judges shortlisted entries and presents the award at the October 2027 Final.

CONTACT

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LIVE SOURCE

innovate.schoolsummit.co.uk/innovator/founding-partner

The live Founding Partner page is the single source of truth. Availability updates — including remaining Founding Partner places — are published there.