
Medical Grand Challenge 2025/26

Healthier by Design: Building Tomorrow's Solutions

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Tech Mentors

1. Introduction

The NUS Medicine Medical Grand Challenge (MGC) is a student-led medical innovation program started by the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine). It aims to encourage medical students to identify unmet healthcare needs and to work collaboratively with students from other faculties to form interdisciplinary teams to explore creative and out-of-the-box solutions to meet these needs. This will be a year-long event, culminating in the competition's Grand Finale in August 2026. The team projects will be evaluated and scored for creativity, design quality, healthcare impact and business strategy by an esteemed panel of judges.

Rationale

We hope to nurture the following attributes (6 Cs) in Undergraduates:

1. **Curiosity** – to question things and not accept current limitations
2. **Creativity** – to look beyond and find new solutions
3. **Compassion** – to care about issues affecting human health and well-being
4. **Collegiality** – to be able to work in teams to achieve more
5. **Collaboration** – to find value in working with people from different disciplines and backgrounds
6. **Commercial Intelligence** – to be entrepreneurial and understand what works in the marketplace

2. Who is a Tech Mentor?

A Tech Mentor is a current expert in the relevant healthcare field who is invited to guide team(s) in developing their internal initiatives or moonshot projects. Tech Mentors may have their own health technology initiatives related to the team's project, which may be in the ideation, validation and/or market penetration stages.

However, the team's project must be clearly distinct from the Tech Mentor's existing solutions. Undergraduates working under a Tech Mentor are expected to gain experiential learning by contributing to the project, engaging in networking opportunities with the mentor's partners and deepening their understanding of health and innovation through guided mentorship.

3. What is the difference between Tech Mentors and Team Advisors?

Tech Mentors are people who have their own existing healthcare technology project(s) and are invited to join this programme. They will then onboard a student team to lead new projects that may be related to their existing projects/solutions but cannot be the exact same or replicated (so that students can be assessed on their contributions). Students' contributions for previous Tech Mentor

projects include performing market research to formulate strategies and speaking to clinicians for medical advisory in product development. Tech Mentors are key partners for MGC as they provide valuable mentorship to a specific team throughout their MGC journey as they work and improve on the initiated project.

Team Advisors, on the other hand, are relevant experts whom the team has sourced and engaged on their own accord to guide them on a new initiative conceptualised by the students themselves. In this case, the team is not working on a project initiated by their Advisor, whose primary responsibility is to provide advice.

While both can be experts in the field, Tech Mentors have an existing production or business that is related to the team's project, whereas Team Advisors do not.

Tech Mentors can provide technological assistance to the teams (e.g. help in 3D printing the prototypes or provide a prototype for the team to execute), whereas the Team Advisors should not be contributing to the development of products/prototypes of the projects directly.

4. What is the role of the student team in a Tech Mentor project?

The student team, in alignment with MGC's competition spirit, must innovate and contribute to spearheading the translation or commercialisation of a new product or service. To facilitate assessment of the students' contributions, they should not be working entirely on projects that are based on existing work already completed by the Tech Mentors. Instead, students should be thinking of new ways to ideate on complementary solutions/product lines (e.g. for a company with sensors to evaluate knee physiotherapy, a student team may explore how the core technology can be applied to new business opportunities such as spinal care or back pain). The contribution of the team to Tech Mentor projects will be subjected to evaluation.

5. Who can work with a Tech Mentor?

Only local and international teams participating in the **Open Category** are allowed to work with Tech Mentors.

6. I am a student looking to work on a Tech Mentor project. How can I apply to get a Tech Mentor?

The MGC Organising Committee will be sourcing and shortlisting a wide pool of Tech Mentors from varying healthcare technology projects for the team to choose from. A project-matching survey will be sent to both approved MGC Tech Mentors and MGC participants. Based on the results, the committee will pair the MGC Tech Mentors with the MGC teams. The MGC Organising Committee will take into consideration the Tech Mentors' preferences and recommendations during the team matching process.

7. Can my team arrange our own Tech Mentor externally?

Yes! Students are welcome to arrange their own Tech Mentors externally. However, the project must be related to a healthcare technology field and is ultimately still subject to approval by the MGC Committee. Students must inform the MGC Committee as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to register the team as a Tech Mentor Project.

The Tech Mentor must still make an application to formally become a Tech Mentor under MGC. Please refer to Question 9 for further details.

8. How does the Tech Mentor programme work? Is this an internship and is there a minimum requirement for this internship?

The purpose of the Tech Mentor programme is to give students more opportunities to gain practical experience in the real-world setting of their Tech Mentor's health technology venture. Students are expected to work under the guidance of tech mentors/companies to understand how businesses and projects work. It is not necessarily a formal internship, but may be so, up to the discretion of the mentor. There is no minimum requirement for this programme; the frequency and intensity of exposure are based on discussion between each team and mentor, and dependent on their unique requirements and availability. This may vary across different projects and time periods.

However, as a rough guideline, we recommend that students conduct regular meetings with their mentor every two weeks from February to July. Teams are also encouraged to check with their Tech Mentors regarding any need for internship contracts at the beginning of project initiation, if necessary. Working hours should be flexible, and is ultimately up to the teams' and their Tech Mentors' discretion to decide on what suits their circumstances best. Should there be any doubt regarding internship contracts, teams may check with the MGC Committee via email.

Disclaimer: Tech Mentors are not permitted to engage students in their personal projects or professional work outside the scope and requirements of the MGC competition.

9. I have an existing health technology startup. How can I apply to become a Tech Mentor?

Aspiring Tech Mentors can fill in the [Tech Mentor Application Form](#). For those without a team, kindly email this document to the MGC Committee members at mgc@u.nus.edu by 23 September 2025, 2359 hrs (SGT).

For *local and international teams working on projects initiated by their **own self-sourced Tech Mentor***, or *local and international teams working on projects **used previously** from other competitions (with or without a Tech Mentor)*, the Tech Mentor Application Form must be submitted during the registration process.

All submissions will be reviewed by the MGC Organising Committee for alignment. Confirmed projects and approved Tech Mentors will be announced by 1 November 2025, after which participants will select their preferred mentors.

Approved Tech Mentors are expected to guide their assigned teams throughout the MGC competition period, up until the Grand Finale.

10. I am currently serving as a Tech Mentor. Am I also allowed to be a judge for MGC?

Please note that Tech Mentors will not be eligible to serve as judges within the same competition cycle, to ensure that the integrity and fairness of the competition are preserved.

11. I have further questions. Who do I approach?

You may contact the MGC Organising Committee at mgc@u.nus.edu for further queries.