

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES 2025

ZIRI EZI

COMPETITION



Ziri Ezi is Igbo for “as it should be”

Starting With Ideas...



ZIRI EZI

COMPETITION

For Nigerians Aged 16 - 25

First Prize

\$350

Second Prize

\$250

Third Prize

\$150

And there's more:

- Mentor workshop for top 10 finalists
- Feature on the Ziri Ezi Magazine for top 10 finalists.

Submission Opens

15/02/25

Submission Closes

12/04/25



Please read the submission guidelines carefully

Our Values

Our Ziri Ezi values are rooted in traditional Nigerian wisdom.

We believe in the strength of community, respect for nature, honoring our ancestors, and recognizing how deeply connected we are to the world around us. Anything we do or create affects not just us, but everyone and everything around us.

This competition is about bringing those values back to life in a country that's losing its sense of togetherness and confidence to solve problems on its own—without relying on outside help, or ideas that don't fit our culture.

If you're inspired by these values and have bold, changemaking ideas to share, we'd love for you to apply!



About the Competition:

There are two sections to be filled in the online application form.

Defining the Problem

In this section, we'll ask you questions about the problem you want to solve. We're not looking for anything big or complicated—just take a look around and think about the unique challenges you or other everyday Nigerians face.

Whether it's something that affects you personally or the people around you, the more relatable it is, the more we'll trust that you truly get the issue and can create a meaningful solution.

Describing Your Solution

We welcome any idea—as long as you can explain how it tackles the problem. It could be fun ideas like these:

- Could it be a cool gadget that helps people get things done easier or safer?
- Or maybe a social event to help settle a long-standing argument that's causing trouble in the community?
- What about a performance—music or play—to teach people about something valuable in your university or community?



More on Solutions:

Your ideas don't need to be tested, built, or fully detailed.

You don't need to solve the whole problem—you can tackle a part of it—as long as it's something that can grow and make a bigger impact over time.

What we are **NOT** looking for:

- **Shifting responsibility.** If your idea depends solely on the government, NGOs, or international help to work, it'll probably get disqualified. We want solutions that rely on the local resources and resources to make it work.
- **Money-first thinking.** We care about the positive impact your idea can have on others, not how much money it can make. If it happens to be profitable, that's cool, but it's not the main goal.
- **Copy-paste solutions.** Repackaging ideas that don't fit our local context won't cut it. So you can build a car from scratch—that not new. Who's it for, can they afford it, where are the materials from, how's it powered, and how will nature be affected? Focus on local needs and solutions that make sense for them.
- **Vague ideas.** Saying “we need trains for transport” or “we need housing for homelessness” doesn't show you've really thought about the problem. Dig deeper into the issue and discover one thing that can be done to make it better, even if just a little.



How to Apply.

This competition is only open to Nigerians between the ages of 16 and 25.

When the competition opens, we'll drop a link on Instagram for you to fill out the application form and submit it. We won't be judging your English, design skills, or training. It's all about how strong your idea is, not how it's presented.

At the end of the application, you'll have an opportunity to upload anything extra to support your application. It's optional, but you'll earn bonus points if it helps us understand your idea better!

The acceptable formats you can upload:



Pictures: You can upload things like sketches, diagrams, comic panels, 2D/3D visuals, or photos of the problem or place you're focusing on—anything that helps explain your idea clearly! Please label your images so we can easily understand what each one refers to.



PDF Document: If you're more into writing and want to share extra details or research, you can submit a PDF. Just remember, more words don't always mean a better idea—the best solutions are usually the simplest to explain. Only submit PDFs for written documents. If you can't convert files, you can take clear photos or screenshots of your writing and share as an image, as long as we can read them!



Rich Media: This could be videos, animations, or audio—like real footage of the problem, a tour of your idea, or an animation showing how your solution works. Be creative and find fun ways to bring your idea to life!

FAQs Answered:

Our answers to commonly asked questions.

Must I reside in Nigeria to be eligible for this competition?

No, you can live anywhere in the world as long as you are a Nigerian citizen, and the problem you're addressing is specific to Nigeria.

Do you accept group applications?

Yes, but no more than three people per group! Only one person should submit the application for the group and make sure to list other group members in the 'Additional Information' section.

Can someone help me sketch my ideas?

Of course! You can get help with creating images or sketches for uploading to the "Supporting files" section, as long as the original idea is yours. Remember, our focus is on the strength of your idea, not how fancy the presentation looks.

What if I don't have an email address or internet access?

You can use the email of a guardian or trusted friend, and they can even help you apply—as long as the idea is yours! You can also print the application form, fill it out by hand (in clear handwriting), and then email us a scanned copy.

Email your questions to kedu@nelenstudios.com



Competition 2025 Calendar:

Mid February

Submissions Open

- Follow application link and fill out the form.

Mid April

Applications Closed

- Submission deadline reached, application window closed.

April - June

Judging

- Judges decide on the top 10 best ideas.

Early July

Shortlist Announced

- Top 10 finalists contacted to prep for workshop

Early August

Creative Workshop

- A fun online workshop where a panel discusses how to improve ideas with the top 10 finalists.

End of August

Resubmission of ideas

- Top 10 finalists revise and resubmit their work

September

Winners Announced

- Top 3 finalists and seven runners-up. Information of top 10 collected for magazine.

End of October

Magazine Published online

- Ziri Ezi Magazine will showcase the top 10 finalists' works and profiles.

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