

Rules and Regulations

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **SensUs**, **SensUs 2022** and the **SensUs competition** are defined as the SensUs project as a whole.
- 1.2 The **SensUs organization** is defined as the group of students who are responsible for the organization of the SensUs competition.
- 1.3 A **SensUs team** or **team** is defined as a group of students who participate in the SensUs competition.
- 1.4 The **SensUs Innovation Days** are defined as the period when all teams will be in Eindhoven (NL) to conclude the SensUs competition.
- 1.5 The **SensUs Contest** and **Contest Event** are defined as the period of the SensUs Innovation Days that is open to the public.
- 1.6 A team **supervisor** is defined as the university professor (full, associate, or assistant) who has sole educational end-responsibility for the activities of a SensUs team.
- 1.7 A team **coach** is defined as a person with a coaching or guiding role towards the team.
- 1.8 The **SensUs website** is defined as the main website of SensUs: <https://www.sensus.org>
- 1.9 The **Team Page** is the medium that will be used to provide and collect information. This is a folder in Google Drive, to which all team members will have access.

2. Team composition

- 2.1 A maximum size of 15 students is allowed for participating teams. It is strongly recommended to have at least 8 students in a team.
 - 2.1.1 Students can participate in a team when they are enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's program during the SensUs competition.
 - 2.1.2 Students who are enrolled in a Master's program cannot participate in SensUs 2022 if they graduate before June 1st, 2022.

- 2.1.3 PhD students cannot participate in a team, with one exception: PhD students can participate in a team if they are enrolled in a PhD program and obtained the Bachelor's degree no more than 12 months previously to the SensUs Contest.
- 2.1.4 Students who have participated in previous editions of SensUs are allowed to participate in the SensUs 2022, provided that they meet the requirements mentioned above.
- 2.2 For each university team, a university professor (as defined in 1.6) acts as the team supervisor. The supervisor is responsible for the formation, supervision and guidance of the participating team.
Note: It is advised that professors involve an additional staff member in the guidance of the team (e.g. another professor, a postdoc, or a PhD student).
- 2.3 In each participating team, one student acts as the main contact person towards the SensUs organization and one student acts as a backup option.
- 2.4 By joining a team, every team member consents with being shown on the SensUs website. This includes names, surnames and pictures.
 - 2.4.1 In case a team member would like to object to being shown on the website, the person himself/herself is responsible to communicate this to the organization.
- 2.5 Each team chooses a team name. This name will be used to represent the team in public, e.g. on the SensUs website and during the Contest Event.
 - 2.5.1 Team names need to be proposed to and accepted by the SensUs organization.
 - 2.5.2 The proposed team name can be rejected if there is not sufficient distinction between the names of different teams.
 - 2.5.3 The proposed team name can be rejected if the SensUs organization deems the name to be in conflict with the vision and mission of the SensUs competition.
 - 2.5.4 The proposed team name is not allowed to directly refer to a non-academic sponsor. However, it is allowed to make an indirect reference to a non-academic sponsor.
 - 2.5.5 The final judgement about the proposed team name is at the discretion of the SensUs organization.

3. The SensUs Contest

- 3.1 During the SensUs competition, every team designs and builds a prototype biosensor system for the measurement of a given biomarker in a given matrix.
- 3.2 A biosensor system must meet the requirements defined in the Analytical Aim section in the Information Package to be allowed to the Contest Event.

- 3.2.1 The aim of SensUs is that teams develop biosensing assays themselves. Teams should not use assay kits provided by others, without making any effort themselves and without understanding molecular details.

An exception is made for commercially available reagents that are generic and represent only a small part of an assay, such as a blocking buffer or a conjugation reagent. Suppliers of such reagents give information about the main components, but often do not give all molecular details. Such generic reagents can be used in the SensUs Competition, provided that (i) the team knows the main components and their molecular mechanisms, (ii) the used reagents represent only a small part of the biosensing assay, and (iii) the team knows alternative solutions in case the supplier would stop providing the reagents.

- 3.2.2 Teams may use biomaterials from external sources (e.g. antibodies) in their biosensor system, provided that the requirement under 3.2.1 is met.

- 3.3 The Contest Event includes the testing of prototype biosensor systems and presentations for an audience.

- 3.4 Teams will be judged on data extracted from their biosensor system during the Contest Event and on supporting information, e.g. posters and presentations.

- 3.4.1 The jury is composed by the SensUs organization with the intention of creating a judgement with representation of different stakeholders, e.g. university professors, representatives from companies and healthcare representatives.

- 3.4.2 Teams should provide information to the jury in a transparent and truthful manner. Fraudulent or misleading behavior can lead to disqualification of the team. This is at the discretion of the jury and the SensUs organization.

- 3.5 Travelling to and from the Netherlands should be arranged and paid for by the participating teams themselves. The SensUs organization arranges a stay for the teams during the Contest Event.

- 3.6 Due to COVID-19, it is not mandatory to be present in Eindhoven during the SensUs Event. In the case a team does not travel to Eindhoven for the SensUs Event, due to COVID-19 or other circumstances, it is mandatory to be present online during the SensUs Event.

- 3.7 During the SensUs Innovation Days, all the teams, jury members, partners and the public will have to conform to safety regulations put in place by the Dutch government and the Eindhoven University of Technology. Any misconduct of the regulations may result in disqualification and/or removal from the SensUs Competition.

4. Safety

- 4.1 The participating teams are required to follow all safety and insurance rules of their institution and their respective countries. Failure to do so can result in disqualification from the competition at the discretion of the SensUs organization.
- 4.2 For every team, the supervisor ensures that the team members follow all required safety trainings and are covered by insurances necessary for their SensUs work.
- 4.3 Teams are required to minimize the use of harmful chemicals.
- 4.4 Teams are required to build their prototype biosensor system in such a way that the device can function outside of a laboratory environment. All equipment must be able to function safely in a public setting.
- 4.5 Every team must inform the SensUs organization about potential safety risks of their biosensor system. This information must be provided to the SensUs organization at least two weeks before the Contest Event.
- 4.6 During the stay in the Netherlands for the SensUs event, teams are required to follow all safety rules set by the SensUs organization and the location of the SensUs Innovation Days.

5. Intellectual property

- 5.1 The SensUs Contest occurs in the public domain. Therefore, demonstrations and presentations of the biosensor systems occur in the public domain.
- 5.2 If a participating team or its university wants to secure patent rights, it is their responsibility to do so. The SensUs organization is not involved in the securement of patent rights and does not cover any IP-related costs of the teams.

6. Deadlines, changes, cancellation

- 6.1 The SensUs organization reserves the right to impose consequences onto a team when it misses a deadline or it fails to follow the rules.
- 6.2 The SensUs organization reserves the right to cancel or change the SensUs Innovation Days in case of circumstances that strongly affect the competition.

- 6.3 The Rules and Regulations may be subject to change at the discretion of the SensUs organization. The participating teams will be informed about these changes. The latest version of the Rules and Regulations is available on the SensUs website.
- 6.4 The SensUs Organization cannot guarantee an equal experience for online participants and participants that are present in Eindhoven

7. Responsibility

- 7.1 The SensUs organization is not liable for any loss or damage caused by participants or visitors. This includes but is not limited to: materials used during the SensUs week, personal belongings, chemicals and biosensor systems.
- 7.2 Team members are responsible for their own belongings during their stay in the Netherlands.
- 7.3 Participants need to arrange all necessary insurances themselves. The SensUs organization recommends the team members to have travel, health, and liability insurances during their stay in the Netherlands.

8. Promotion / Social media

- 8.1 Please contact the SensUs organization for the use of any component of the SensUs identity. This includes but is not limited to: the SensUs logo, photos or video recordings of the SensUs Innovation Days and logos and images of partners.
- 8.2 Teams are encouraged to share content with the SensUs organization for cross-promotion. Whether a post is shared is at the discretion of the organization.

