INNOVATION CUP 2027

Great minds come together at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

What's in it for me?

If you are a post graduate student with an interest in the pharmaceutical, chemical or digital industry, the Innovation Cup is your chance to gain in-depth knowledge about research and development, to network with top students from around the world and to build a business case together with experienced professionals. Selected top performing participants could get an offer for a permanent employment at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Who can apply:

Advanced students and post docs in the fields of life science, material science, data science and business administration from all over the world can apply:

- Sciences: Post graduate students on their way towards a PhD in biology, medicine, biotech, bioinformatics, data sciences, biochemistry, chemistry, pharmacy, physics or engineering.
- Business: Advanced MBA students or recent MBA graduates with an interest in the pharmaceutical, chemical or digital business.

Not open to healthcare professionals.

How it works:

During a one-week Summer Camp, 42 selected students will attend in-depth presentations about the pharmaceutical and chemical industry given by researchers and managers of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and its affiliates. The participants will be divided into teams, work together to develop a business plan and present it to a grand jury, who will award the Innovation Cup for the best plan along with a cash prize of EUR 25,000 plus EUR 10,000 and EUR 5,000 for the runner-ups. Options to implement the best business plans will be evaluated. A conference with alumni of previous Innovation Cup editions will be held on the first day of the Summer Camp.

The Innovation Cup 2027 will comprise the following team topics: oncology, immunology & inflammation, drug discovery, synthetic biology, fertility, advanced electronic materials and climate change. Further information about the program and how to apply online from November 1, 2026 until January 31, 2027: *innovationcup.emdgroup.com*

Location:

Near Frankfurt am Main, Germany, August 14 – 20, 2027.
Travel, accommodation and food expenses will be paid by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.