

# Academia Industry Training (AIT) Nepal 26/27

## Application Form - Nepali Participants

Questions ? Contact : [sneha.bhattarai@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sneha.bhattarai@eda.admin.ch)

**⚠ Important notice:** The application deadline is **10 May 2026**. Once submitted, no further changes to your application are possible. Please review all sections carefully before submitting.

### Section 1 · Application Prerequisites

All applicants must fulfil all the following mandatory criteria. Applications that do not meet every criterion will not proceed to qualitative evaluation.

1

#### Nationality & Academic Affiliation

Must be a Nepali undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate student of a recognised academic institution in Nepal or abroad, OR a Nepali entrepreneur with academic affiliation in Nepal or abroad.

2

#### Stage of Business Idea

Early-stage business idea (proof-of-concept to prototype stage). No or limited external funding secured (excluding academic grants). TRL 3–6 is the expected range.

3

#### Completeness of Application

All sections of the application form must be completed and all requested documents submitted.

4

#### Commitment to Full Participation

Must be available for all mandatory programme activities: Swiss Week (21- 25 September 2026) and Nepal Week (8–12 March 2027).

5

#### Expectations & Motivation

The applicant must clearly state their motivation for transforming their idea into a business and articulate their expectations from the programme.

I confirm that I meet all of the above mandatory criteria. \*

Yes – I confirm I meet all mandatory criteria

No – I do not meet all criteria (please do not proceed with this application)

## Section 2 · Personal Information

First name \*

Last name \*

Email address \*

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY) \*

Gender \*

 Female Male Non-binary / other Prefer not to say

Age group \*

 Under 25 25–35 36–45 46 or above

Current city / district of residence \*


Academic degree / level \*

 Undergraduate student Graduate student (Masters) Postgraduate student (PhD) Researcher / Academic Entrepreneur with academic affiliation Other

Name of academic institution \*

*Include country if studying abroad.*

Field of study / research \*

 **CV required:** Please attach your curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages) when submitting the application. LinkedIn profile URL is optional.

## Section 3 · About You

Tell us a bit about yourself – who you are, what drives you, and what we should know about you beyond your project. (Max. 500 words)

About you \*

## Section 4 · Your Startup / Business Idea

**When preparing this section, please keep the following in mind:**

- Be as clear and detailed as possible so that reviewers can understand and evaluate your idea fairly.
- Write for a non-expert audience – reviewers may not be specialists in your field.
- Show the importance of your idea: explain the scientific, societal, or environmental value it creates.
- Connect your idea to the bigger picture. Highlight relevance to Nepal’s semi-urban and rural communities and to Swiss- Nepali development collaboration.

**Name / working title of your startup or business idea \***

**Sector / industry \***

<input type="checkbox"/> Agri-tech / Food systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean energy / Climate
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital / ICT	<input type="checkbox"/> Education and learning
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial services / Fintech	<input type="checkbox"/> Health / MedTech
<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing / Hardware	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism / Culture
<input type="checkbox"/> Water / Sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**If ‘Other’, please specify**

**Brief description of your business idea \***

*In 2–3 sentences, describe what your startup does, what problem it solves, and for whom. (Max. 150 words)*

**Problem & solution \***

*What specific problem does your idea address? How does your solution work? Why is it better than existing approaches? (Max. 300 words)*

**Target market & beneficiaries \***

Who are your primary users or customers? Focus particularly on semi-urban and rural communities in Nepal beyond the capital. (Max. 200 words)

**Scalability & impact \***

How could your solution scale to reach more people, increase access to jobs or services, or create broader impact in Nepal or regionally? (Max. 200 words)

**Current stage of your startup / idea \***

<input type="checkbox"/> Idea stage – concept or research-based idea, no prototype yet
<input type="checkbox"/> Proof-of-concept stage – early prototype or PoC developed
<input type="checkbox"/> Prototype stage – functional prototype or MVP built
<input type="checkbox"/> Early validation – tested with initial users / pilot customers

**Current funding situation \***

<input type="checkbox"/> No external funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-funded / bootstrapped
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic / university grants only	<input type="checkbox"/> Government grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Angel investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Venture capital / institutional funding

If you have received funding, please specify the amount and source (optional)

**Team**

Please describe your team (including yourself) and the complementary skills present. If applying as an individual, describe your own background relevant to this venture. (Max. 200 words per member)

**Team member 1 – name, role, and relevant background \***

**Team member 2 – name, role, and relevant background (optional)**

**Team member 3 – name, role, and relevant background (optional)**

## Section 5 · Interest in the Swiss Market

**Why is your startup relevant for the Swiss market? \***

*Describe the opportunities or synergies you see between your idea and Switzerland – including innovation ecosystems, partnerships, or investment potential. (Max. 300 words)*

**What opportunities do you see for your startup in Switzerland? \***

*Include any existing contacts, prior research into Swiss institutions or markets, or planned collaborations. (Max. 300 words)*

## Section 6 · Motivation & Expectations from AIT Nepal

**Why do you want to participate in AIT Nepal 26/27? \***

*What drives your desire to transform your idea into a business? Why is AIT the right programme for you at this stage? (Max. 300 words)*

**What do you expect from the AIT programme? \***

*For example: network development, business-model validation, international expansion, funding readiness, mentorship, etc. What do you hope to achieve by the end of the programme? (Max. 500 words)*

**What would you contribute to the programme? \***

*How could your background, mindset, or network add value to your AIT peers and the wider community? (Max. 300 words)*

**Section 7 · Additional Information**

**How did you hear about AIT Nepal 26/27? \***

<input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn post (Leading House)	<input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn post (other)
<input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn post (Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation by AIT alumnus / alumna
<input type="checkbox"/> University / institution notice	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

If 'Other', please specify

**Section 8 · Declarations & Key Dates**

**Key programme dates**

Event	Date
Application deadline	10 May 2026
Jury Day (Top 10 pitches)	11 June 2026
Kick-off Day	14 July 2026
Swiss Week	21- 25 September 2026
Nepal Week	8 - 12 March 2027

### Declarations

Please check each box to confirm your agreement.

<input type="checkbox"/>	I confirm that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that once submitted, no further changes to the application are possible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I commit to personally attending all mandatory programme activities (Kick-off Day, Swiss Week, and Nepal Week) should my application be successful.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I note that only one person per startup is permitted to join the programme.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I consent to the information provided in this application being shared with jury members in the event that I am shortlisted.

### Signature

Full name \*

Date \*

--	--

Signature

--

Official applications must be submitted to [sneha.bhattarai@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sneha.bhattarai@eda.admin.ch). Please write to the same in case of any inquiries.