



FAQ

1) How many students can enter?

There is no limit to how many students can participate. However, each student must submit their own individual entry.

2) What are the eligibility requirements?

This Challenge is open to students studying at a UK school or college, as well as those who are home educated. Applicants must be in Year 12 or 13 in the academic year 2026/2027, or born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2010.

This means applications will come from students who are currently in Year 11 or Year 12 (2025/2026).

3) How much does the competition cost?

Entry to the competition is free. However, students should consider travel costs.

LEAF offers a transport bursary, which is available only to students who take part in the two events at Harper Adams University, in April 2026 for the Challenge Day and September 2026 for the weekend residential. Harper Adams University will be providing a free shuttle service from Stafford Train Station and Telford Train Station to the university campus.

4) How can students access the competition?

The application process is simple. Young people will be asked to write a response of a minimum of 1,000–1,200 words, plus a short response explaining what motivates them to take part in the Challenge.

The participants will then be selected on the quality of their responses to attend the Challenge Day at Harper Adams University on 24 April 2026.



5) When can students apply?

Students can apply any time between 18 October and 4 January.

6) What happens once I have applied?

Your parent/guardian will receive an email with a link to the consent form. They will have up to five working days to complete and sign it.

Applications close on 4 January, and selected candidates will be informed by the end of January 2026.

7) Can students from any subject background, with no prior agri-food experience or career plans, take part?

Yes.

Students do not need any prior knowledge of agriculture or food production.

They do not need to be studying specific subjects.

They do not need to be planning a future career or further study in the agri-food sector.

The Challenge is open to all.

8) I'm really interested but I don't want to go to university. Is it still worth me entering?

Absolutely! This is still a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the agricultural and food sectors. You will have the opportunity to meet and network with people already working in the industry. The prizes will support those planning on going straight into a job.

