

Sim University 2026 Official Regulation

Article 1 - Definition

This regulation defines the rules for the Sim University 2026 Competition, which will take place during the SESAM Annual Meeting, from 17 to 19 June 2026, in Lyon, France.

The competition aims to assess technical, non-technical, and clinical decision-making skills of health sciences students through realistic and innovative simulation-based challenges.

The winning team will be officially recognised as the Sim University 2026 Champion.

Article 2 - Goals

1. To promote simulation-based learning as a central tool for improving patient safety, teamwork, and communication.
2. To enhance participants' ability to think critically, make decisions, and act effectively in complex healthcare situations.
3. To encourage interprofessional collaboration and leadership within healthcare teams.
4. To create a dynamic and inclusive environment that connects students, educators, and simulation professionals across Europe and beyond.

Article 3 - Participation Terms

1. Participants must be students in Medicine, Nursing, or other health sciences programs at the time of the competition.
2. Each team must consist of four students, an interprofessional composition is recommended.
3. Each country or university may submit one team to represent their institution or national simulation society.
4. If more than one team from the same country applies, the national simulation society, or if not applicable, the students themselves, must determine which team will officially represent the country.
5. Teams proposed by national simulation societies are encouraged; however, in the absence of a national society or an official nomination, other teams remain welcome to apply.
6. Each team must appoint one spokesperson to handle all official communication with the Organising Committee.
7. The official language of the competition is English.

Article 4 - Competition Format

The competition will consist of clinical simulation scenarios designed to evaluate clinical decision-making, team communication, and teamwork under pressure.

Online Preliminaries

The Preliminary Phase will be conducted online in February 2026 and may take the form of interactive clinical scenarios or mannequin-based simulation in the team simulation center.

The five highest-ranked teams will qualify for the on-site phase in Lyon.

Results of the preliminaries will be communicated to all team spokespersons and announced on SESAM's official social media platforms March 2026.

On-Site Competition (17-19 June 2026, Lyon, France)

The on-site phase will bring together the five qualified teams plus the host country team (France), which is directly qualified for the quarter-finals.

The competition will follow this structure:

- The six preliminary teams will compete in quarter-finals, divided into two groups of three teams, each group performing different scenarios.
- The four best-performing teams will move on to the semi-finals, again divided into two groups, each playing distinct simulation cases.
- The two top semi-finalist teams will advance to the final round, where they will compete to win over the competition.

Each scenario will last approximately 10 to 15 minutes, followed by a structured debriefing led by experienced debriefers. During each round, waiting teams will be scheduled and supervised to ensure fairness and confidentiality.

All interventions must be performed directly on the simulator; if any procedure cannot be executed physically, the participant must describe the intended action verbally.

Teams will have the opportunity to get acquainted with the simulation materials and equipment provided in a general on-site briefing.

To ensure equal preparation, online Zoom meetings will be organised before the event to familiarise teams with the competition structure, simulation equipment, technical requirements and common standards, organised by the Organising Committee.

Teams are encouraged to train with a tutor experienced in simulation and critical care prior to the competition.

Article 5 - Registration/ Process of Application

Registration will be open from the first week of December 2025 to 15 January 2026 via the official SESAM / Sim University platform.

1. A dedicated online registration form will be made available for all teams during the official registration period.
2. The form will be published on SESAM's official social media platforms and circulated through national and international simulation societies, and Affiliated Societies.
3. Each team must complete the form in full, providing the required information, including:
 - a. Full names of all team members
 - b. University / Institution
 - c. Country
 - d. National Simulation Society contact
 - e. Year of studies
 - f. Contact details (email and phone number)
 - g. Team name and designated spokesperson
4. All submitted applications will be reviewed by the Organising Committee for competition criteria and National Simulation Society endorsement.
5. If more than 15 teams apply, an online quiz will be organised to determine the 15 teams that will advance to the preliminaries.
6. Teams will receive official confirmation of their registration, along with further instructions and logistical details, after the registration deadline.
7. Submission of the registration form constitutes full acceptance of all rules and regulations described in this document.

Article 6 - Materials and Dress Code

Each team member must wear professional and practical clothing during the competition.

Uniformity within teams is encouraged for visual identification (e.g., matching scrubs, T-shirts, or accessories).

Each team should bring at least one stethoscope for simulation use. All other necessary equipment and materials will be provided by the Organising Committee.

Teams are encouraged to express their creativity and team spirit by designing a unique team identity – such as a fun team name, color theme, symbol, or even a slogan – reflecting enthusiasm, collaboration, and professionalism.

Article 7 - Assessment Criteria

1. Team performance will be assessed based on their ability to recognise, manage, and treat critically ill patients within simulated environments.
2. Evaluation will rely on assessment tools and cover both technical and non-technical skills, including:
 - a. Leadership
 - b. Communication
 - c. Teamwork
 - d. Situational awareness
 - e. Problem-solving and clinical reasoning
 - f. Resource management
3. Each performance will be independently scored by the Jury.
4. In case of a tie, the Jury will deliberate to determine the winner.

Article 8 - Jury

The Jury will consist of two experts in medical simulation and critical care, appointed by the Organising Committee.

The Jury is responsible for:

- Evaluating all team performances according to the criteria in Article 7.
- Where possible, attending every performance of the same scenario to ensure fairness and consistency.
- Selecting the semi-finalists and the final winner based on cumulative scores.

The jury will be debrief the quarter-finals and semi-finals. During the finals, the Jury will not conduct debriefings; two designated debriefers will lead non-judgmental educational debriefings after each scenario, ensuring consistency and educational value.

All evaluation processes will use standardised scoring charts and follow strict confidentiality protocols.

Article 9 - Awards and Recognition

The winning team will be officially announced during the SESAM Annual Meeting Closing Ceremony on 19 June 2026, in Lyon, France.

If the winning team cannot attend the ceremony, they must designate a representative to receive the award on their behalf.

Article 10 - Confidentiality and Media

All participants must sign a recording and confidentiality agreement before the competition.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to use photos and video recordings for educational and promotional purposes, in full compliance with GDPR regulations and participant consent.

Article 11 - Omitted Points

Any matters not covered in this regulation will be resolved by the Sim University 2026 Organising Committee, whose decisions are final.

Article 12 - Final Remarks

Participation in Sim University 2026 implies full acceptance of this regulation and commitment to the values of fair play, teamwork, inclusion, and respect.