

FALLING WALLS VENTURE

Terms and Conditions – Falling Walls Venture

(As of March 2025)

Who can participate?

- I. Presenting at Falling Walls Venture is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Therefore, participation is allowed only once. By applying, the candidates confirm that neither they nor anyone else representing their start-up, have never participated in the Falling Walls Venture Pitches as a presenter on stage before. Serial entrepreneurs may be nominated again and apply with a start-up that has not been presented at Falling Walls Venture before.
- II. Falling Walls Venture is a competition for science-based start-ups, meaning companies or spin-offs whose products or services are based on scientific research and advanced technology.
- III. Each start-up applying for Falling Walls Venture must be endorsed by a nominating institution. This can be a university, a research institution, a company, or another type of organisation.
- IV. All participating start-ups must have been already founded as company (incorporated). Companies founded on 1 January 2020 or after are eligible to apply.
- V. At the time of nomination, the nominee must be of full age according to their domestic legislation or older, however, no less than 18 years old.
- VI. There is no legal right to participation.

Process and Data Privacy

- VII. The distinguished Jury will have access to all submitted information and the personal data of each applicant (all data the participant provides, including the pitch deck and pitch video). Likewise, the Advisory Board and partners will have access to the data. Nomination materials will be archived by Falling Walls. The data is processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws.
- VIII. Applicants will be informed of the success of their application following the respective nomination deadline. All decisions made by the pre-selection committee are final and there is no right of appeal. Physical participation in the Falling Walls Venture Pitches on 7 November 2025 in Berlin is obligatory for all selected start-ups (25 Finalists). Likewise, physical participation in the Falling Walls Breakthrough Day on 9 November 2025 in Berlin is obligatory for the selected Breakthrough of the Year 2025 in the Science Start-ups category (announcement on 7 November 2025). Should a participant, for cause, not be able to participate in Falling Walls events, they must inform the Falling Walls Venture team immediately and provide a replacement from within the start-up. In case the latter is not possible, Falling Walls Venture has the right to invite other applicants as a substitute.
- IX. The selection of the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year 2025 in the Science Start-ups category is subject to the Jury. The Jury shall make a decision at its own discretion; all decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.
- X. The applicant is aware and agrees that during the Falling Walls Science Summit video and photo footage will be made to be published on the Falling Walls website, the website of sponsoring partners, and be made available for media. Moreover, Falling Walls receives a non-exclusive licence to use the presented material in whole or in part, provided that the name of the presenter is stated in the context of the use. Such photos and video footage and presented material may be used in various media (i.e. social media, internet/website, press releases, newsletters, brochures, and printed materials). Falling Walls reserves the right to adjust the content in length and according to our Falling Walls brand identity.
- XI. The Falling Walls Foundation will send you emails on events and activities of Falling Walls. You can at any time unsubscribe without charges either through written response or opt-out.
- XII. Finalists of Falling Walls Venture are encouraged to share updates on the start-ups' development with respect to achieved milestones, financing, and valuations. These yearly updates serve the further development and improvement of Falling Walls Venture's value proposition to science-based start-ups, especially in terms of access to finance and the building of a larger network of

investors and partners accessible to participants. This information can be shared with partners of Falling Walls Venture and used for publicity materials.

Applicant Visibility

- XIII. The Advisory Board will select 25 Finalists from all applications. The Finalists will be asked to pitch their start-up on stage and in person at the Falling Walls Venture Pitches, a physical event held in Berlin on 7 November 2025 as part of the Falling Walls Science Summit. Groups are not allowed to present at the Falling Walls Venture Pitches. Only a single person can represent the start-up.
- XIV. The selected candidates agree to give a five-minute presentation, followed by a three-minute Q&A session. The language of the event is English.
- XV. The presentation shall not include indecent or unlawful content. Comments violating the free and democratic basic order may not be made public through the presentation or distributed in any other forum of the Falling Walls Foundation (including all social media channels). The presenter is not allowed to give a talk with an inflammatory political or religious agenda.
- XVI. Each presenter's talk must be in compliance with law, especially design, patent, trademark and copyright law. Presenters must clear any third-party material before their presentation at the Falling Walls Venture Pitches. The Falling Walls Foundation cannot be held responsible for a presenter's violation of the law and cannot assist with this process or act as a consultant.
- XVII. The Falling Walls Foundation reserves the right to disqualify candidates from the event for cause. Such cause shall exist in particular in the event of breach of the candidates' obligations pursuant to sections XV and XVI or the eligibility criteria (I to VI).
- XVIII. **Entering Germany:** Successful applicants must hold a valid passport and apply for any required visa to Germany right after receiving the letter of acceptance to the Falling Walls Venture Pitches. The Falling Walls Foundation can provide an official invitation but cannot be of any further assistance in the visa application process. Moreover, the participants are obliged to inform the Falling Walls Foundation immediately if the visa application was rejected.
- XIX. **Travel:** Travel stipends will be available to cover the travel cost of the start-up presenter (single person who presents the start-up on stage at the Falling Walls Venture Pitches in Berlin). The stipend includes a fixed allowance for travel costs (to be used for an economy class flight or 2nd class train journey). If travel costs exceed the allowance, participants will have to cover the surplus amount themselves. The Falling Walls Foundation cannot cover travel or accommodation cost for more than one representative of the start-up or a representative of the nominating institution.
- XX. **Accommodation:** The Falling Walls Foundation will cover accommodation cost for the start-up presenter's stay in Berlin for a maximum of 4 nights from 6–10 November 2025 at its partner hotel. Any additional nights of accommodation must be covered by the participants or a third party (e.g. sponsor or partner).

Liability

- XXI. At the event, the organiser assumes liability pursuant to statutory conditions. No further liability shall exist.

Equality and Diversity

- XXII. The Falling Walls Foundation is committed to promoting equality and diversity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

By ticking the respective box in the nomination form, I confirm that I have read, understood, and accept the above listed terms and conditions. Website as of now [27 January 2025].