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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE 9TH COHORT OF THE SUMMER STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME

Hamilton, Bermuda, 15 April 2026 – The Bermuda Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) is now accepting applications for the 9th cohort of the Summer Student Entrepreneur Program (SSEP). BEDC invites students aged 13 to 23 to apply for this year's initiative, which continues to develop young Bermudians into the Island's next generation of entrepreneurs.

This year's SSEP runs from Monday, July 6th through Thursday, August 27th, 2026, with the goal of equipping students with the practical skills, confidence, and resources to launch and grow their own businesses. Participants will receive educational training, a weekly financial stipend, and seed funding to kick-start their ventures. Throughout the program, BEDC's team will provide ongoing support to help students maximise their earnings. The program also includes a competitive element, with the top three earners receiving additional financial rewards.

Deshun Simmons, Assistant Communications and Development Officer at BEDC, shares, "SSEP is about more than a summer job. We want students to walk away with a real sense of what it means to build something from the ground up: the discipline, the creativity, and the resilience that entrepreneurship requires. Each year, we are inspired by the new and innovative ideas students bring to the table, and it is encouraging to see young Bermudians show up ready to learn, grow, and take ownership of their futures. Our hope is that every participant leaves not just with business skills, but with the belief that their ideas are worth pursuing."

Last year's cohort brought a diverse range of businesses to life, from digital marketing services and landscaping to clothing, health and wellness beverages, anime merchandise, and toys. These businesses reflect the creativity and ambition of Bermuda's young entrepreneurs, with several still in operation today.

Ean Welch, Owner of Metal & String and member of the 8th cohort, had this to say about the program, "My experience in the SSEP program was really positive, [the program] was really well put together and organized: it helped me to develop better entrepreneurial skills that proved to be beneficial." He continued, "The presenters within the program were very knowledgeable and willing to share their expertise and experience with us. I have since then accomplished vending at many big events that have increased my network: as a testament of my growth and hard work I was awarded BEDC's Most Enterprising Young Entrepreneur."

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The program's capacity is limited, and the application deadline is Monday, May 25th, 2026. Selected participants will be notified by Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026. For application details or to learn more, visit <https://bedc.bm/courses-events/annual-events-intiatives/summer-student-entrepreneur-program/>, email info@bedc.bm, or call 292-5570.

About BEDC

Bermuda Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) is Bermuda's premier source of free, confidential business advice for entrepreneurs. The mission is to serve Bermuda's local business community with the highest degree of professionalism by providing authoritative business advice, counsel, and financial support. Bermuda Business Starts Here! For more information, visit www.bedc.bm.

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