UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

MTU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

SE TU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta
an Oirdheiscirt
South East
Technological
University

DUNDALK
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DCU
Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Developing
SDGs-driven
Entrepreneurship
Culture across
Ireland

Hackathon for the SDGs

Guidelines

Contact points:

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What is the Hackathon for the SDGs?

This Hackathon for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) is an exciting, dynamic, hands-on event where students collaborate in teams (up to 5 members), generate ideas, co-design and present innovative solutions to a given problem and compete for fantastic prizes. The exact problem that student teams will be working on will be revealed at the start of the event, and teams will have around 3 hours to come up with a solution and then pitch it to a panel of judges. The winners of the Hackathon event at each university will progress to the Showcase Final which takes place in a hybrid format on Friday 20th of February 2026.

- **Why a Hackathon for the SDGs?** This is a unique opportunity for students across disciplines to engage meaningfully in identifying sustainable solutions to societal challenges and to apply the skills they have gained across their respective programmes. Students will experience what it really feels like to be an entrepreneur, compete for amazing prizes and gain recognition that will boost their CVs.
- **Do I need a business degree? No.** A business degree or previous entrepreneurship experience is **NOT** required for this Hackathon. This Hackathon is all about creativity, networking, and having fun while acquiring new skills and valuable experiences that can advance your career.

Can I participate?

You can participate in the Hackathon for the SDGs if you are a:

- Full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate student (e.g., enrolled in a Certificate, Diploma, Degree, Masters, PhD or post-doc programme) in any discipline at UCC, MTU, TCD, DCU, SETU or DkIT.

What is the timeframe?

The Hackathon at UCC will take place on Tuesday 17th of February 2026 between 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm in Aula Maxima (The Quad). The winning team from UCC will then pitch for prizes at the Showcase Final on Friday 20th of February 2026 – this will be a hybrid event.

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Do I need to prepare anything beforehand?

No, you do not need to prepare anything. On the day of the Hackathon, you will have a team/be placed in a team, and you will work on a solution as part of that team. The description of the problem that all teams will be solving will be announced at your university at the start of the Hackathon event.

How does it work?

- **Phase 1:** Sign up using the Microsoft Form below.
- **Phase 2:** On the day of the Hackathon, you will work in a team to provide a solution to a set problem and pitch that solution. You can indicate in the Microsoft Form if you are applying as part of an established team (e.g., one that you and your colleagues have already set up), or if you would like to be randomly placed in a team by your university Hackathon coordinator.
- **Phase 3:** If you are successful and win the local UCC Hackathon, you and your team will progress to the Showcase Final (20/02/2026) where you will pitch your solution online to a panel of judges.

What are the team prizes in the Showcase Final?

Prize 1 (Overall Winners): **€5,000**
Prize 2 The Most Creative Solution: **€4,000**
Prize 3 Best Pitch: **€3,000**

How do I get involved?

Please click on the Microsoft Form link below, complete and submit the Form:

University College Cork:
https://forms.office.com/e/wmRfSbE2t8

If you have any questions, please contact the staff from your university (see front page).