

# Boeing Hackathon FAQ (completed)

Bristol Uni's Computer Science Society

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# 1 Participation

## 1.1 I'm not a CS student, why should I participate?

The Boeing Hackathon has always been open to all engineering students in our university! We have seen plenty of amazing projects in the past few years that have not been focused on writing software (or any software at all), and some of them even went on to take the first prize. We are always excited to see more practical projects and rest assured that software will not be a judging criteria in assessing your project.

## 1.2 I am a first year student, can and should I participate?

All students in the engineering faculty are welcome to participate! First year students should not be intimidated by the competition, as history has shown that they can produce amazing projects, some of which went on to win various categories!

We think that hackathons are an amazing way to accelerate your knowledge of a subject, as you will be put in the position of building a project which can have real impact, and it is also the perfect opportunity to put into practice what you have studied so far! No matter the outcome of the event, you will most likely learn something new, have a cool project to add to your CV and will enjoy the free pizza that comes with participating to this event!!

## 1.3 I am a postgraduate student, can I participate?

Yes, postgraduate students are more than welcomed to join this event! We cannot wait to see amazing and more advanced projects, and we hope that this event will also facilitate networking to your potential future employer, or provide you with a more impressive CV!

## 1.4 I have never participated in a hackathon before, or I am not confident in my skills. Is it still worth giving it a shot?

Yes, definitely!!! We all have to start somewhere, and joining a hackathon will make you a better engineer than the one you were before you started. We have plenty of students with hackathon experience and also many more for whom this is their first hackathon! This is also a yearly event, so you will have many chances to impress us with your projects!

# 2 Teams

## 2.1 How many team members do we need?

You can do it solo or in a team<sup>1</sup>! Teams cannot be larger than 6 members.

## 2.2 Can students from other faculties/universities join my team?

Yes! Anyone who is a member of the NUS<sup>2</sup> is welcome to attend the event.

## 2.3 I don't have a team / My team and I are looking for more members, what can I/we do?

Don't worry! There are many more students in your shoes who would love to participate but don't have a team or enough members yet. Our committee members will pair you up and will contact you through email. Make sure that you fill out a form that specifies this need.

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<sup>1</sup>Teams can only have a maximum of 34% committee members in order to be eligible for a prize

<sup>2</sup>National Union for Students - basically any student union

## 3 Preparation

### 3.1 What should I prepare before the hackathon starts?

First of all, take a deep breath! You will embark on a 24h challenge that will challenge you both mentally and physically. Make sure that you read our rules, found a team and, if you have time, come up with a prototype idea. See if you have the materials needed for it. Do not stress too much about it! You will have plenty of time during the event!

### 3.2 Where can I get the materials needed for my project? Will you cover the costs?

Sadly, we cannot provide you with the materials or cover the cost of them, and we have never done so in the previous years. We hope that this will not discourage you from participating.

### 3.3 What are the recommended resources to look at before the event?

It really depends on the project you have in mind. It can be useful to read around technologies/frameworks you will be using before hand but remember you cannot make anything outside of the 24hours for your project.

You should DuckDuckGo around the theme **Living under water** to get inspiration for projects you could work on.

There's absolutely no need to spend hours upon hours reading and researching before the competition - part of the fun is learning new technology in a short period of time and *hacking* things together!

### 3.4 I don't know how to start the project, or where to get an original idea for one.

It's alright, every team is like at the beginning of the hackathon! Many teams also change their project mid-way after discovering a more interesting question to solve, so be open for everything! We do not expect you to make something revolutionary, but we expect for you to give your best and have fun in doing so. Original ideas are not required, you can improve upon an existing solution to a problem, and the best way to do that is to have a brainstorming session with your fellow teammates!

### 3.5 Where can I find the list of rules?

Rules will be published on the CSS website before the start of the event: [https://cssbristol.co.uk/events/2021-03-20\\_boeing\\_hackathon/](https://cssbristol.co.uk/events/2021-03-20_boeing_hackathon/)

## 4 When / Where

### 4.1 Where can I connect with other people participating?

Teams: You will be sent a link to join it.

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/418325086122256>

### 4.2 Who is in charge of organizing this event?

Hello there! We are Bristol University's Computer Science Society (CSS for short), and we are collaborating with Boeing and various faculty members in bringing you an amazing hackathon, despite the global circumstances! We hope that you will enjoy this event as much as we are enjoying organizing it!

CSS website: [cssbristol.co.uk/](https://cssbristol.co.uk/)

Boeing website: [boeing.com](https://boeing.com)

### 4.3 When will the hackathon start? How long will it be?

The hackathon will start on the 20th of March 2021, at 12pm UK local time. The hackathon will be 24h, lasting over the night!

### 4.4 Where will the hackathon be held?

The hackathon will be held online.

### 4.5 How should I structure my day for the hackathon?

First of all, make sure that you do not neglect eating and resting! Second of all: snacks!! Snacks are an amazing resource to give you a small bump in energy necessary to fix that small issue, so make sure that you stock up on those!

Try and make sure that you do not have anything else planned on that day. Leaving midway will be terrible for your teammates as they will be working with less people.

If you plan to pull an all-nighter, make sure that you strategically set times for power naps, coffee breaks or any break for that matter.

### 4.6 Can I leave the hackathon midway for necessary errands (ie. grocery shopping, taking the dog on a walk etc)

Yes, you can, especially if it is an emergency. However, in all other cases, we do not recommend it as it could jeopardize your project. If you really have to, make sure that you speak with your teammates first, especially if you do not know them personally.

## 5 Judging

### 5.1 What are the themes/categories?

This year's theme is **Life Under Water**

You can choose to enter your project into one of the following categories:

1. Exploration
2. Environment
3. Communication

### 5.2 Who will be the judges?

The judges committee will be formed of faculty members and alumni students. They will be revealed a few days before the event.

### 5.3 How will the judging be done? What makes a winning project?

You will have 5 minutes to present your project after the 24 hours build time. The Judges will mark your project on the following criteria:

1. How well does it fit the theme?
2. How well does it fit the selected category?
3. Innovative?
4. Wow-factor?

### 5.4 Can a project win multiple categories?

Nope, all projects can only win in one category - you choose which category you're entering into.

### **5.5 What type of prizes will be given to the winners?**

1st prize - £500 (shared among the winning team)

Runner-up - £200 (shared among the team)

+ a few more prizes given throughout the event (stay tuned!)

### **5.6 What type of projects have won in the past few years?**

All winning projects fit the following:

- Fit the theme
- Impressive
- Well presented
- Has the wow factor

### **5.7 How can I contact you guys for further questions?**

Feel free to post a question on the CSS Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSSBristol>

If you have a more complicated issue or question, some of our committee members can be contacted directly:

Yek Zhun Chen (Technical Events) - [events@cssbristol.co.uk](mailto:events@cssbristol.co.uk)

Matthew Crees (Secretary) - [secretary@cssbristol.co.uk](mailto:secretary@cssbristol.co.uk)

Viet-Anh Tran (First year Representative) - [fresher@cssbristol.co.uk](mailto:fresher@cssbristol.co.uk)