

Challenge Description:

The transition from high school to college (i.e. university) can be both exciting and quite challenging. In the United States, university is where the majority of students experience their first taste of independence from living with their parents. Overflowing with curiosity and challenged with a quest to rediscover their convictions, many students find this time to be life-altering ^[1]. At the same time, however, U.S. students undergoing this transition “are overly optimistic and confident in their ability to manage the challenges they will encounter at college. ^[2]” As can be expected, such a transition for international students can be even more challenging. More informatively, not only do international students need to cope with academic challenges, but also with social isolation and cultural adjustment. According to research conducted at Texas A&M University (San Antonio and Kingsville campuses), “academic challenges [include] communication with professors, classmates, and staff. Consequently, [international students] have to deal with social isolation when engaging in different group activities. Culturally, they need to confront the different ways of thinking and doing in the US.” ^[3]

Hult International Business School prides itself in its international student body, and is continually striving to prepare students for success, both academically and in terms of student life. Your challenge in this coding hackathon is to design and develop a tool (for example, an app) to assist Hult’s incoming undergraduate students in their transition. The scope of this challenge is restricted to students joining the San Francisco campus, and may include factors related to academics, student life, living in the United States/San Francisco, and/or any other factor your team feels should be addressed. You may target a specific need or focus on several factors.

Deliverables:

1. 15-minute presentation (not including Q&A)
 - Summary of the problem and how it has been interpreted by the team
 - Proposed solution and its expected impact on the problem
 - Live demonstration of the tool in a format of the team’s choosing
 - Marketing approach
 - How will you get your team’s tool in the hands of users?
 - How will you keep users engaged after receiving the tool?
2. A functioning tool that can be run via a command line or with the click of a button
3. A development plan for future app enhancements

1. Geher, G. (n.d.). Why Go to College? Retrieved July 6, 2019, from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/darwins-subterranean-world/201801/why-go-college>
2. Dr. (2011, June 11). High School to College Transition, Part 1: The Freshman Myth. Retrieved July 6, 2019, from https://www.huffpost.com/entry/high-school-to-college-tr_b_620043
3. Wu, H., Garza, E., & Guzman, N. (n.d.). International Student’s Challenge and Adjustment to College [Abstract]. *Education Research International*, 2015. doi:10.1155/2015/202753