

# Your Complete Guide to DATATHON 2018



## Where to Go

Datathon will primarily take place at Smith-Buonanno Hall (aka Smitty-B) at 95 Cushing St, Brown University, Providence, RI 02906. For a map of campus, check [this](#) out. While most hacking and workshops will be in Smitty-B, the opening address and keynote speech will take place in 85 Waterman St. and a few other events will take place in Alumnae Hall. These buildings are less than a five minute walk from each other!

Registration will occur prior to the keynote in **85 Waterman St.** from 9:30 to 10:30. If you are arriving by train or bus, this is an easy walk (10-15 minutes) or Uber.

## What to bring

- Identification
- Wallet
- Computer and accessories
- Phone
- Chargers
- Sleeping supplies
- Change of clothes (remember March in New England = winter)
- Water bottle
- Toiletries

## Sleeping arrangements

If you need a place to stay, we will be providing **air mattresses** and **quiet rooms** in the hacking building on the night of Saturday, March 3rd. If you need anything else to help you get a good night's sleep (sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, pjs, etc.) please bring it! There is a chance that some of you may be hosted by Brown students in their dorms--

we will keep you updated on this. Either way, **we have somewhere for you to sleep** on Saturday.

**We will have a limited amount of housing in Brown dorms available for those who need it Friday night.** Please email [bds@brown.edu](mailto:bds@brown.edu) if you need somewhere to sleep Friday, March 2nd. We will try to accommodate as many people as we can!

## Schedule

A detailed schedule will be updated on our website and Facebook as the event approaches, but here's a rough outline:

### **Saturday, March 3rd**

9:30am - 10:30am	Registration
10:30am - 11:30am	Opening & Keynote
11:30am - 1pm	Lunch and Team-Forming Mixer
1pm	Hacking Begins!
1pm - 6pm	Workshops
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Dinner
Midnight	Snack

### **Sunday, March 4th**

8am - 10am	Breakfast
10am	Hacking ends
10am - 12pm	Judging
12pm - 1pm	Lunch
1pm - 3pm	Closing Talks
3pm - 4pm	Demo and Prizes
4pm	Goodbye

## Teams

Working in a team is not required, but it is strongly encouraged-- two to four heads are better than one! A team can consist of up to **four** people. We recommend that each team have **at least a 1:1 ratio of undergrad to Masters and PhD students** Graduate students are encouraged to mentor and share their experience with their undergraduate teammates. Differences in each team's experience and skills will be included as a metric in the judging process.

If you don't have teammates yet, don't worry! We will be having a team-forming mixer on Saturday, March 3rd.

## Slack

**\*\* Very important \*\*** Join our Slack [here](#) before Datathon begins!

We will be using Slack to send out announcements about food, workshops, and answer questions throughout the event.

To talk to one of the organizers or directly, shoot us a message! Our names in the slack will be organizer-[Organizer's first name]. Similarly, mentors will be available for help at mentor-[Mentor's first name].

Here are the channels that will be available to use during the event:

#team-formation - mingle and kick off the introductions  
#travel - ask questions about travel reimbursement, carpool, etc  
#workshops - get updates of all the workshops  
#askmentor - request a mentor to help on your project  
#datasets - access our datasets **\*\*only competitors have access \*\***  
#food - lunch, dinner, snacks will all be announced here  
#goldman - communicate with our Goldman Sachs reps  
#lost-n-found - post about your missing stuff  
#memes - you get the idea

## Competition Rules

1. You may work individually or in teams of up to four people.
2. We will be providing datasets, including, but not limited to, data from our sponsors. While at least one of our provided datasets has to be a central part of your project, you are free to use external data as well.
3. Some broad categories that you can consider for your projects:
  - Visualization
  - Statistical insights/correlations
  - Machine learning models
  - Interactive data exploration application

Or any combination of these! Your project DOES NOT have to include all of these areas. You may focus on only one. Judging will be holistic and will prioritize the quality/creativity of your overall approach irrespective of which direction you take.

4. You may not use any code that written before the event.
5. You may use any language/framework/library/API that you want.
6. We reserve the right to disqualify/expel anyone who does not meet our code of conduct or violates rule 3.

## Judging

**Register for Datathon on the Devpost:** <https://browndatathon.devpost.com>  
**Submission Deadline: Sunday 10am EST**

Judging will take place during our demo fair at the end of the weekend. During this time, Every team will have the chance to present to multiple judges. The presentations should be a **maximum of 5 minutes**. Try to include any question/hypotheses, your approach, and your results. A few slides are sufficient - especially if you have visualizations. During the lunch/judging period, we also encourage you to walk around and talk to other participants about their projects!

**You don't have to have a completed/successful project to present!** Judges will be really interested in hearing your ideas, even if you weren't able to finish or you didn't get the results you hoped for. The majority of judges are academics and researchers and are particularly interested in the approach and process.

## Prizes

### **Grand Prize: Sponsored by Goldman Sachs**

An iPhoneX and an invitation to present the winning findings to senior staff in Engineering at Goldman Sachs HQ—all expenses paid for each team member, and swag!

### **Second Place**

A Neo Smartpen and notebook for each team member

### **Third Place**

A Google Home for each team member

(For more prize info, check out our [devpost](#))

## Workshops

Workshops will take place throughout the event in **Smitty B 106 (this is on the second floor- not ground level!)**. We encourage you to attend as many workshops as possible, as they will help you with your projects, future endeavors, and are a great chance to take a break!

For a detailed workshop schedule, check back with [browndatathon.com](http://browndatathon.com) as the event approaches.

## Wifi

You can connect to the network named **Datathon** with **password: Datathon2018**

## Food

We will providing you with **free** breakfast, lunch, and dinner from some of our personal favorite local food joints starting with lunch on Saturday, and ending with lunch on Sunday. If you marked a dietary restriction on your RSVP, we have you covered! Announcements about where and when meals will be served will be communicated via Slack. Don't worry, we'll have snacks too ;)

## Reimbursements

If you uploaded a receipt on your RSVP form, we guarantee that we will be reimbursing your travel up to the cap we sent you in your acceptance email. Unfortunately, we cannot reimburse driving, so we recommend buses and trains, and are happy to help you find cheap tickets if you have any trouble. You can provide us with receipts through and immediately following the Datathon, at which points all reimbursement materials will be due. Reimbursements will be processed and issued as soon as possible following the event.

## Questions

If you have any more questions, concerns, or just want to chat about your day, shoot us an email at [bds@brown.edu](mailto:bds@brown.edu)!

Don't forget to [RSVP on Facebook](#) for more updates and to connect with your future competitors and teammates.