



[www.zindi.africa](http://www.zindi.africa)

**Zindi Inter-University AI Hackathon**  
**Event Date: Saturday March 21, 2020**  
**INFO SHEET & INVITATION TO REGISTER**

### **Introduction**

Zindi ([www.zindi.africa](http://www.zindi.africa)) is the largest African data science competition platform with the mission of building the data science ecosystem in Africa. Zindi hosts a community of over 9,000 data scientists across Africa dedicated to solving the world's most pressing challenges through machine learning and AI. Data scientists come to Zindi to hone their skills, build their professional profile, connect with job opportunities, and to share ideas with their peers across Africa and beyond. Private companies, start-ups, governments, and NGOs work with Zindi to source the best data science and AI solutions, as well as proven talent for their specific needs.

### **About the Hackathon**

Zindi will run the first-ever inter-university AI hackathon for students across Africa. By leveraging the Zindi platform online, any university in any African country will be able to join in the hackathon. Zindi will mobilise its community to organize a network of hackathon events that will take place simultaneously at university campuses across Africa.

Students at each university will form teams of up to four people and compete in the hackathon on the Zindi platform. Teams will be representing their universities and will compete against other universities for cash and in-kind prizes for the top three student teams as well as for the universities that they represent. Winners will be determined based on the Zindi leaderboard which objectively ranks all solutions.

We anticipate participation across 10 to 20 universities, with confirmed participation from universities in South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mauritius, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Ghana, and more. We anticipate participation from 300+ students.

### **Program**

The tentative program is as follows (all times are GMT). The hackathon will be a full-day event.

- 8:00 – 8:30: Welcome and orientation (video conference across all university locations)
- 8:30 – 9:30: Technical orientation to the problem (video conference across all university locations)
- 9:30 – 17:30: Students form teams and work on the challenge
- 17:30 – 18:00: Announcement of winners and prizes (video conference across all university locations)

### **About the Machine Learning Challenges**

There will be three machine learning challenges of varying difficulty that speak to uniquely African challenges for students to choose to tackle. Challenges will address issues including gender, conservation, mobility,



Address: 5 Armadale St., Woodstock Cape Town, South Africa 7945



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financial inclusion, and agriculture. Technical content of the challenges may include computer vision, predictive analytics, classification, natural language processing, and GIS data.

At least one challenge will be appropriate for beginners. However, students will need some experience programming in R or Python and will each need their own computer during the hackathon.

### **Funding & Organisation**

Your university will organise its own full-day event on 21 March on campus. The venue should have internet connectivity. We aim to use live video streaming at the beginning and end of the hackathon, and we will use live leaderboards on [www.zindi.africa](http://www.zindi.africa) to manage and rank submissions.

Zindi will provide financial support of up to \$300 USD to up to 10 universities to help with the logistics of running this event. If you would like to apply for financial support, please use the registration form below to indicate as such.

Universities are also encouraged to reach out to sponsors to help cover costs and prize money at their own event - note that Zindi will not be providing prizes for local events.

### **Prizes**

Zindi will offer a total prize pool of \$2000 to the top three teams. If two teams at a university place in the top three, only the highest-ranked team will receive prizes. The teams will be judged based on their ranking on the dedicated Zindi leaderboard. Zindi will also offer a total prize pool of \$15,000 for the three universities to which the winning teams belong.

**To participate, register your university [here](#) by 6 March 2020.**

**If you are seeking funding or other support from Zindi, please be sure to register by 17 February.**

**Please direct any questions to Paul Kennedy [paul@zindi.africa](mailto:paul@zindi.africa)**



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