



January 31  
February 1  
February 2

GOOGLE DEVELOPER'S

# MAC-A-THON



**Build with AI**

 Google Developer Groups  
McMaster University

Participant  
Package



# Get ready for our 2025 GDSC Mac-a-Thon: Build with AI Edition!

We will be focusing on Google's latest Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technologies in our in-person 2-day hackathon. This year's hackathon will be a part of GDG's Build with AI event series, where attendees will learn more about Artificial Intelligence (AI), their many and varied applications, and how to get started with AI using Google Technologies. Artificial Intelligence has exploded in both functionality and popularity over the past couple years. Many apps, services and products use AI to enhance functionality, better convey information to customers and supercharge existing processes. By attending this event, attendees will be able to get a better understanding of how AI works from industry experts and get started with a project of your own!

## When?

Friday January 31 - Sunday, February 2nd

## Where?

Peter George Centre for Living and Learning,  
McMaster University

- All events are **IN-PERSON** for the 2025 hacking season.
- Parking details: Please park in one of McMaster's several parking lots. Parking is subject to availability, and parking lot hours vary by location.
- Transit details: GO Transit routes 15, 41 and 47 stop at McMaster University's GO Bus terminal.

## How?

Checking-in must be done in-person at PGCLL either on Friday January 31st from 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM or on Saturday February 1st from 9:00 AM onwards.

# Guidelines



## ***Team Formation***

Teams should consist of 1-4 members. Diversity is encouraged, and members can be from different universities. GDSC leads, core members, and team members can not participate. If you are looking to join a team or find new members, join our discord and send a quick message in the GDSC Mac-a-Thon 2025 **#team-formation** channel.

## ***Project Scope***

As a 'Build with AI' event, each project must tackle an issue using Artificial Intelligence along with one or more Google Technology. Problem statements should aim to tackle a vital issue in the world, (example: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals).



## ***Submissions***

Projects must be original and have been created during the period of the Mac-a-Thon 2025 (from Saturday, Feb. 1st @ 11am to Sunday, Feb. 2nd @ 12:00pm/noon). Submission deadline is Sunday, **Feb. 2nd @ 12:00pm**. All projects must be posted on our [Mac-a-Thon 2025 Devpost page](#).

A graphic of a white rectangular sign with a black border, hanging from two black lines. Two light blue circles represent fasteners at the top corners. The sign is positioned over a light blue L-shaped background element.

# Mac-a-Thon Structure

## ***Transportation/Accommodation***

Unfortunately, we will **NOT** be able to provide any transportation or overnight accommodations. Hackers will be responsible for getting to and from the venue.

## ***Food***

Three meals (Lunch & Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday) will be provided for hackers along with some snacks and refreshments throughout the day. Dietary restrictions should be made clear in the RSVP Form or to an organizer at the event.

## ***Workshops***

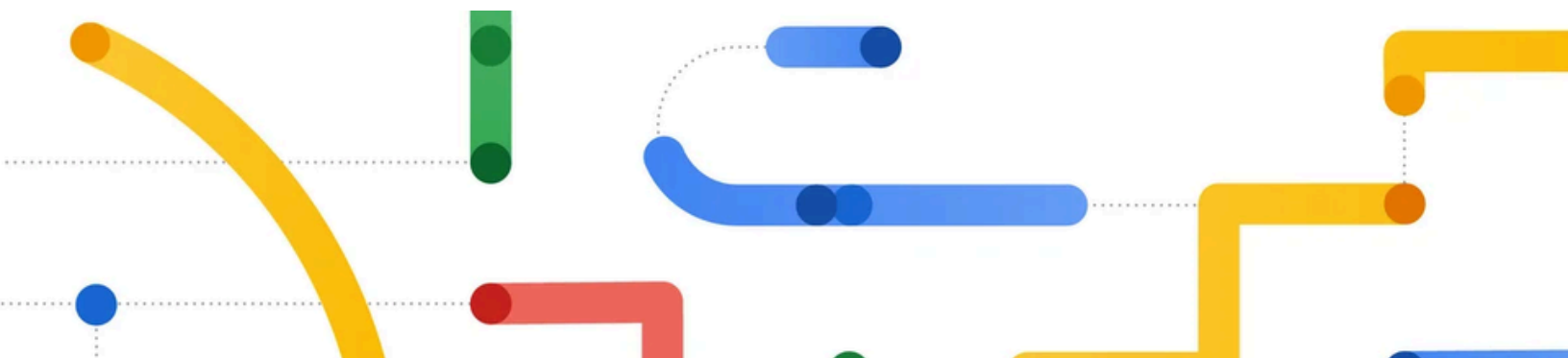
All workshops will happen in-person in PGCLL M24. Workshops will be recorded and posted on Discord.

## ***Hacking Spaces***

M21 will be the allocated hacking spaces for Saturday and Sunday. Overnight accommodation will **NOT** be provided. The hacking space will close at 10pm on Saturday and reopen at 8:30am on Sunday.

## ***Scavenger Hunt, Raffle, Mini Challenges***

Attend workshops to get entries to the raffle! Finish the scavenger hunt and get even more entries! There will also be mini challenges posted to our Instagram story, so make sure to keep your eyes peeled! Make sure to follow the Discord for more details!





# Judging Criteria

## ***Judging Process***

Judges will rank each team on weighted system. Each criteria will have a different weight (shown below in brackets) and will be ranked on a scale of 1 to 7.

## ***General Criteria***

The following criteria pertain to all projects/presentations:

- **Problem Statement (3):** The problem statement should be properly explained and presented to the judges, both in any visual aid and during the presentation. If needed, evidence or statistics should be used to back up the problem statement.
- **Theme (1):** This year's hackathon is all about 'Build with AI', meaning all project submissions should demonstrate a significant use of AI in the project.
- **Demonstration (2):** Each team should demonstrate or present the functionality of the project using visual aids or prototypes.
- **Next Steps (2):** A project in the real world doesn't end once a demo presentation is complete - it often requires a plan for future profession and testing. Details of such a plan should be included in the submission.
- **Issues/Conflicts (1):** Each team should explain how their team overcame issues while working on the project.
- **Q&A (1):** Questions posed by the judges should be adequately answered by the team.

## ***Other Project Criteria***

This criteria are additional points graded by the judges after the presentation:

- **Google Technology (1):** Each project should demonstrate a use case of Google Technology.
- **Solution (3):** Each project should have a well-rounded and adequate solution to their problem statement.
- **Original (1):** Each project should be unique and original. However, this does not mean that your project can not be an iteration over an existing or known solution.
- **Documentation (1):** All project material submitted must contain sufficient documentation and should be organized.

# Mac-a-Thon Schedule

**Friday Jan. 31**

| Time     | Event                            | Location |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 7:30 PM  | Registration/Check-in Begins!    | M24      |
| 8:00 PM  | <b>Event 1: Intro to Hacking</b> | M24      |
| 9:00 PM  | <b>Cooldown Event</b>            | M24      |
| 10:00 PM | Doors close!                     | M24      |

\*mandatory to attend

# Mac-a-Thon Schedule

**Saturday Feb. 1**

| Time             | Event                                     | Location            |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 9:00 AM          | Registration/Check-in (ends at 12:00 PM)* | Main floor lobby    |
| 10:00 AM         | Opening Ceremony*                         | 127                 |
| 11:00 AM         | Hacking begins!                           | M21                 |
| 11:00 AM onwards | Mini-challenges start                     | Discord & Instagram |
| 11:30 AM         | Event 2: Building an Impactful Portfolio  | M24                 |
| 12:30 PM         | Lunch! (Lava Pizza)                       | 127                 |
| 1:30 PM          | Event 3: Build ChatGPT from Scratch       | M24                 |

\*mandatory to attend

# Mac-a-Thon Schedule

## Saturday Feb. 1 (cont'd)

| Time                 | Event                                    | Location |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| 2:30 PM              | Event 4: Co-op and Employability         | M24      |
| 3:30 PM              | Event 5: Women in Tech Panel             | M24      |
| 4:30 PM              | Event 6: McMaster AI Society             | M24      |
| 5:30 PM              | Event 7: McMaster Advanced Space Systems | M24      |
| 7:00 PM              | Dinner!<br>(Smokes Poutine)              | 127      |
| 7:30pm to<br>8:30pm  | Mini Games Event                         | M21      |
| 8:30pm to<br>10:00pm | Karaoke                                  | M21      |



# Mac-a-Thon Schedule

**Sunday Feb. 2**

| Time     | Event                                       | Location |
|----------|---|----------|
| 9:00 AM  | Registering for DevPost/Judging*            | Online   |
| 10:00 AM | <b>Breakfast!</b>                           | 127      |
| 12:00 PM | <b>Project Submission Deadline</b>          | M24      |
| 12:00 PM | <b>Lunch! (Banh Mi Hue)</b>                 | 127      |
| 1:00 PM  | Teams set up their tables for judging fair* | M21      |
| 2:00 PM  | <b>Judging time*</b>                        | M21      |
| 4:00 PM  | <b>Networking Session (for students)</b>    | M24      |
| 5:00 PM  | <b>Closing Ceremony*</b>                    | 127      |

\*mandatory

Prize:  
Best Overall Hack



Samsung Monitor 24"

Prize:  
Runner-up

Mini Projector



\*Prize Model may vary

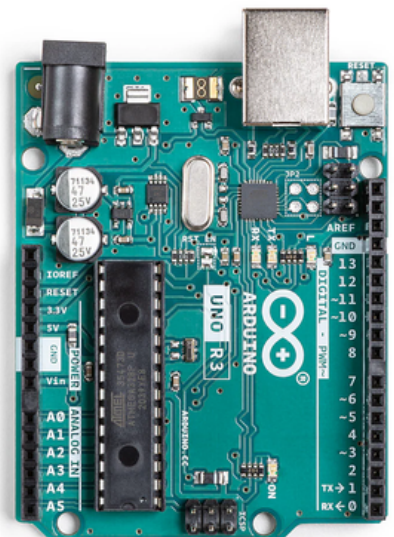


Prize:  
Sustainable Hack

JBL Tune 520T

Prize:  
Gender Equality Hack

Arduino UNO R3 Kit





# Important Notes

## ***Judging***

Each team will be judged individually. Prior to the deadline, teams will submit their projects on our Devpost page. There will be a judging schedule on when each team will present (schedule will be posted to the Discord).

## ***Bring:***

- laptop
- phone
- chargers
- earphones
- valid photo ID
- water bottle

## ***Contacts***

GDSC Hackathon Discord

[Join the Discord here!](#)

GDSC Hackathon Devpost Page

[Submit projects here](#)

GDSC Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/gdscmcmasteru/>

McMaster Emergency Services

905-525-9140 ext. 24281 or 905-522-4135

