



<https://www.smarthackathon.org/innovate2025>

Eligibility Criteria for Hackathon Judges

A judge should:

1. **Have Relevant Expertise** – Background in software development, engineering, AI, cybersecurity, healthcare, or any relevant domain based on the hackathon theme.
2. **Industry or Academic Experience** – At least 3-5 years of experience in industry, research, or academia related to the hackathon's focus.
3. **Prior Experience in Innovation/Evaluation** – Experience in evaluating projects, mentoring startups, or working on innovative solutions is a plus.
4. **Impartial & Ethical** – Must be unbiased, professional, and capable of evaluating projects based on merit.
5. **Good Analytical and Communication Skills** – Ability to assess technical feasibility, innovation, and impact while providing constructive feedback.
6. **Availability & Commitment** – Must be available for the entire judging process, including Q&A sessions and final evaluations.

Selection Criteria

Judges should be selected based on:

1. **Technical Knowledge** – Expertise in programming, design, AI, IoT, cybersecurity, blockchain, or other relevant fields.
2. **Industry Representation** – A mix of professionals from startups, tech companies, academia, and government bodies ensures balanced perspectives.
3. **Experience in Competitions** – Previous experience judging hackathons, startup pitches, or research competitions is preferred.

4. **Diversity in Backgrounds** – Aim for judges from diverse sectors like academia, startups, corporate R&D, and venture capital to provide well-rounded feedback.
5. **Reputation & Credibility** – Judges should be well-respected in their domain, recognized by peers, or have significant contributions in their field.
6. **Neutrality** – Avoid selecting judges with personal or business relationships with participants to maintain fairness.

Selection Process

1. Identifying Potential Judges

- Reach out to industry leaders, professors, startup founders, and past hackathon winners.
- Seek recommendations from sponsors, organizing committees, and past judges.
- Utilize LinkedIn, professional networks, and academic conferences to find qualified individuals.

2. Screening & Shortlisting

- Verify credentials, technical expertise, and past judging experience.
- Ensure a balance between industry professionals and academicians.
- Confirm willingness and availability to judge fairly and effectively.

3. Invitation & Confirmation

- Send formal invitations outlining responsibilities, judging criteria, and the event schedule.
- Obtain a commitment and ensure they agree to ethical guidelines.

4. Briefing & Orientation

- Conduct a pre-hackathon session to explain scoring criteria, expected evaluation depth, and guidelines.
- Provide judges with hackathon themes, submission guidelines, and scoring rubrics in advance.

Thanks and Regards,

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