

Westpac Innovation and Coding Competition

Hackathon Information

Dates:	Day 1 Competition: Monday 16 November 2026 10.00am sharp – 3.00pm <i>In-person at below locations</i> Day 2 Competition: Tuesday 17 November 2026 10.00am sharp – 3.00pm <i>In-person at below locations</i>
Locations:	Griffith University Gold Coast Campus - G23 Computer Labs University of Queensland: St Lucia Campus Queensland University of Technology: QUT Gardens Point
Awards Day:	Friday 20 November 2026 9.30am sharp – 1.30pm Westpac Gold Coast Engineering Hub (3168 Surfers Paradise Blvd, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217)
University Reps:	For any questions and coordination on the day contact below reps for each University:
Griffith:	A/Prof Hui Tian 07 5552 9641 Dr Kevin Yin 07 5552 8523 Ms Stacey Milla 07 5552 8271 Ms Mel Gilbert 07 3735 5002
UQ:	Aneesha Bakharia: 0405 971 118
QUT:	Kristylea Antley: 0432 398 701
Overview:	AI is transforming every industry. What does that mean for banking? We're challenging participants to build innovative solutions that explore how AI could reshape the way customers interact with their bank and how banks deliver products and services. From AI-powered financial coaching and intelligent customer service to autonomous banking agents and personalised experiences, the possibilities are endless. This is an open challenge with no prescribed solution. Think big, experiment, and show us how AI can make banking simpler, smarter, safer and more intuitive for customers and employees alike. The Hackathon Competition Days are for you and your team to identify/innovate/improve one of more banking aspects for customers by developing a functional prototype or application. Your solution should be user-friendly, secure, and demonstrate the potential to disrupt traditional banking services.
In-person Competition:	The University computer labs all have computers in the labs for you to use. You are welcome to bring your own laptop to work off for the Hackathon if you wish! Engineers from Westpac will be there to mentor and guide you throughout the day. Feel free to ask any questions and check if you are on the right track! The Hackathon will be run as an in-person event only which will allow for close networking with teammates and with Westpac mentors. There will also be some surprise giveaways for you throughout the two days. See you at the computer labs at 10.00am sharp!

Judging Criteria

- Innovation (25%)
- Technical Excellence (10%)
- Creativity (25%)
- Feasibility (20%)
- Impact (20%)

Resources

- [Westpac Design Resource](#)
- [GitHub Student Developer Pack](#)
- [Free for developers](#)
- [AWS Educate Pack](#)
- [Free UI Kits](#)

Prizes

First Place:	\$2,500 for best idea and solution
Second Place:	\$1,000 for creativity and innovation
People's Choice:	Prize pack

Submission Information (Important!)

How does my Team submit?

At the end of the hackathon, we ask that you submit your solution via email to:

GoldCoastEngineeringHub@westpac.com.au

Submission Requirements:

The following is required as part of your submission:

- Your university name.
- Your team name.
- Team member's names (min 2 people per team)
- A summary of your idea, explaining:
 - What they are you trying to achieve with this idea.
 - Why your team believes this is a good idea.
- A link to a YouTube video of the team presenting the solution, including a demonstration of the software built (10 mins max).
- Any other links to supporting items to help with your solution. If you have working software, provide a link to where it is hosted.

Hackathon Conclusion:

- The Hackathon finishes at 3.00pm on the 17 November 2026.
- Submissions need to be received no later than 4.00pm on the 17 November. Ensure you save enough time during the Hackathon to film your submission video.

Next Steps:

- The Awards Ceremony will be held on 20 November 2026, in-person at the Gold Coast Engineering Hub.
- The Westpac team will shortlist the best teams to present at the Awards Ceremony.
- If you are shortlisted, you will be advised by 2.00pm on 19 November 2026.
- Shortlisted teams will be given 5 minutes on the Awards Day to present their prototype/application to the judges. There are three prizes to win!

Note all participants shortlisted or not are welcome to attend the awards!

Day 1 Competition at Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus

16 November 2026	
Time	Activity
10.00am – 10.10am	Welcome by the lead mentor and a Uni representative
10.10am – 10.15am	Introduction of mentors
10.15am – 10.30am	Checking each team and assigning mentors to each team
10.30am – 12pm	Competition starts
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Break and lunch - Note lunch will not be provided
1.00pm – 3.00pm	Competition continues
3:00pm	Competition Day 1 close

Day 1 Mentors:

Griffith University:

- Lead mentor: Rafael Nami rafael.nami@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Dani Sakong dani.sakong@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Sarah Deakin sarah.deakin@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Luke Kelly luke.kelly@westpac.com.au

University of Queensland:

- Lead mentor: Craig Young craig.young@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Lewis Hickson lewis.hickson@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Daniel Ajibade daniel.ajibade@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Siddhant Lodha siddhant.lodha@westpac.com.au

Queensland University of Technology:

- Lead mentor: Michael Piliaris michael.piliaris@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Paulina Luisce Parroquin paulina.luisceparroquin@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Sayeed Shaiban sayeed.shaiban@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Rumana Vahora rumana.vahora@westpac.com.au

Day 2 Competition at Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus

17 November 2026	
Time	Activity
10.00am – 10.10am	Welcome to Day 2 and confirm attendance
10.10am – 10.15am	Introduction of mentors and assigning mentors to each team
10:15 am – 12pm	Competition continues
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Break and lunch – Note lunch will not be provided
1.00pm – 3.00pm	Competition continues – create a video for submission. <i>*Submissions need to be received no later than <u>4.00pm on the 17 November</u>. Ensure your students save enough time during the Hackathon to film the submission video.</i>
3:00pm	Competition closes – Submissions cannot be accepted after 4.00pm.

Day 2 Mentors:

Griffith University:

- Lead mentor: Danny Wilson danny.wilson@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Devansh Kapoor devansh.kapoor@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Owen Yap owen.yap@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Derek Cerda – Jimenez derek.cerda-jimenez@westpac.com.au

University of Queensland:

- Lead mentor: James Nguyen james.nguyen1@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Hugo Burton hugo.burton@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Rachel Williams rachel.williams@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Hanli Theyse hanli.theyse@westpac.com.au

Queensland University of Technology:

- Lead mentor: Andy Marquis andy.marquis@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Zulya Suleimanova zulya.suleimanova@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Nomin Davaakhuu nomin.davaakhuu@westpac.com.au
- Mentor: Humera Aboo humera.aboo@westpac.com.au

Hackathon Awards Ceremony (In-person Only)

Date: Friday 20th November 2026 9.30am – 1.30pm

Venue: Gold Coast Engineering Hub: 3168 Surfers Paradise Blvd, Surfers Paradise, QLD 4217

Lunch: Provided after team presentations on the day.

Awards Ceremony Program	
Time	Activity
9.30am – 10.00am	Light refreshments
10.00am – 10.10am	Welcome
10.10am – 10.15am	Introduction of judging panel
10.15am – 12.15pm	Team presentations
12.20pm – 12.30pm	All attendees vote on the 'People's Choice Award'
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Pizza lunch
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Winners announced/certificates presented
1.30pm	Event close

Hackathon FAQs

What is a hackathon?

A hackathon is an event where people engage in rapid and collaborative engineering over a short period of time, to come up with innovative solutions to problems. A hackathon is a chance for engineers to show their technological creativity and how they may solve a problem without any constraints.

What is the problem we are trying to tackle?

There is no specific problem we are asking you to provide a solution for. This hackathon is an open-world challenge, around the theme of "AI and what it means for Banking". With technology in mind, how can AI reshape the way customers interact with their bank and how banks deliver products and services? From AI-powered financial coaching and intelligent customer service to autonomous banking agents and personalised experiences, the possibilities are endless. You are free to explore as simple or as complex a solution as you wish. Nothing is off-limits.

What are the expectations for output?

Ideally, we would like a working version of your solution. It doesn't have to be perfect, but the output we can see, which aligns with your idea will help in the judging process.

At the conclusion of the event, teams will need to submit:

- A summary of their idea, explaining:
 - What they are trying to achieve with this idea.
 - Why the team believes this is a good idea.
- A video of the team presenting the solution, including a demonstration of the software built. (10 mins max)
- Any other information you feel will help with judging your submission, e.g. URLs to any publicly hosted solutions, App store locations

How important is a working solution?

This is a Hackathon, and we understand students are at differing levels of technical experience - so we don't expect a perfectly developed solution. The idea and scale of innovation are key judging criteria for this competition. We won't look too deep into your solution from a technical point of view. So, if you need to hard code some things to get your solution working, that won't be judged negatively.

My coding level isn't that high, can I still compete?

We encourage all students, at any level of coding experience, to take part in the event. Building a solution is an important part of the event, however, you won't be judged on the quality of your code. It's a hackathon, we want to encourage participants to 'hack' their way to a solution, over building an elegant solution with limited functionality/impact.

What if I need help with validating some ideas?

Good news, we will have a team of mentors available over the hackathon days whose job it will be to help you with any questions you have. Our mentors will be engineers and IT professionals from Westpac, who will be happy to guide you on anything you want to test with them. Unsure of how a certain section of banking operates, our mentors will be able to help answer those questions which could unblock your idea.

Where do I host my solution?

The short answer is, anywhere you would like. With the complexities of corporate security, we can't necessarily view your solutions from outside the Westpac network. Therefore, it's key you include the working solution as part of your submission video.

Our finalists will be invited to present their solutions at the awards ceremony. So, make sure you can still access your solution at the event, which will take place at Westpac Gold Coast Engineering Hub

I can't make it to the awards session, will I still be included in any awards?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to host the awards day event online so if you are shortlisted you will need to attend the awards day.