

Hack the Plastics

Official Rules and Regulations

Hack the Plastics is a hackathon put on by the Waterloo Centre for Microbial Research and our hackathon sponsors. We expect the hackathon participants to agree to the following rules and decisions made by organizers and judges.

1. Purpose:

Hack the Plastics presents an opportunity for university students to generate and submit a design, a business plan and a pitch for a solution to a problem involving plastic pollution, using microbes or microbial products.

2. Eligibility:

Hack the Plastics is open to all undergraduate or graduate university students.

Participants are subject to verification by the discretion of the Hack the Plastics organising team to request proof of identity for eligibility purposes which include a valid student identification card.

If you are under the age of 18, then consent must be granted by you parent or guardian to participate in Hack the Plastics 2020 by your parent/guardian filling out Participation Waiver form available on the Hack the Plastics registration page. As a minor, you acknowledge that you must read and understand the content of this agreement and intend to abide by the terms of the agreement.

3. Entry Period, Hackathon Dates and Participation Options:

Registration for the Hackathon begins on January 6th, 2020, and will continue until 28th February, 2020, or until the capacity of 150 participants is reached.

4. How to Participate:

Registration forms will be linked from the hackathon website: <https://uwaterloo.ca/hack-the-plastics/>

5. Teams:

Participants are required to work on a team of 4-6 people and it is strongly encouraged that they diversify these teams based on academic programs/relevant skills. Teams are created during the Hackathon event and not before.

6. Hackathon Details:

Eligible teams create a submission that has been worked on during the hackathon period.

7. Submission Requirements:

Submissions must comply with these rules:

- must not have been previously published, exhibited publically, or selected as a winner in a prior competition.
- submissions must be original
- submissions cannot violate any law, statute, ordinance or regulation
- submissions must not reference or be in the likeness of any identifiable third parties, unless consent has been obtained from such individuals. If they are under the age of majority in their province, then consent must be granted from their parent/legal guardian or if consent could not be granted, then their face must be blurred out and voice altered to unrecognition.
- Submissions cannot give rise to any intellectual property infringement, invasion of privacy, publicity, infringe on any right or interests of any third party and must not give rise to claims of payment
- Submissions must not be defamatory, trade libellous, pornographic, obscene, promote hate speech, nudity, drug consumption, explicit sexual activity, vulgar language or symbols or derogatory messages regarding someone's ethnicity, race, sexual orientation or religion.
- All identifiable third party products, trade marks, brands and logos must be blurred so they are unrecognizable

8. Intellectual Property:

Each eligible entrant retains the right, title and interest to their application and grants sponsors a worldwide, gratuitous, irrevocable and non-exclusive licence to copy, use, modify, reproduce, display, adapt and transmit application for use in all media from the date of submission, in regards to administration, promotion and exploitation of the hackathon and for marketing purposes of sponsors, their products or services. Each entrant confirms that the application is original and created solely by the team and no third party contributed as an author, co-author, photographer or any other collaboration in dome form to create the submission. Sponsors, organizers, judges and volunteers will have no responsibility to claims of infringement of rights to copyright, privacy and/or personality and liability will remain with the team. Organizers and sponsors have the right to exclude any submissions if concerns of infringement or inappropriate language or symbols are used.

9. Submissions Previewed on Website

Organizers may display submissions on the WCMR and/or Hack the Plastics website.

10. Winner Selection Process:

There will be two rounds of judging to filter 20 teams to 5 teams for the final pitch:

- i. Closed door judging: Judges will be grouped in pairs and will judge a maximum of 4 pitching teams. Pitches will be a maximum of 5 minutes (judges are asked to time and cut-off). Judges will pick the best team from their group. This results in 5 teams that will participate in the final pitch.
- ii. Final Pitch: A new set of judges will judge the top 5 teams in a public 5-minute pitch according to the rubric. The top winning teams will be chosen (based on prizes available).

11. Judging Criteria

Weight	Criteria	Description	Score		
			0-3	4-7	8-10
20%	Impact/Sustainability	How great is the impact of the solution? How sustainable would the solution be?	Impact minimal and not very sustainable.	Medium impact, possibly sustainable.	High impact and strongly sustainable.
20%	Feasibility	How easily can the solution be implemented. Feasibility includes both a business and technical perspective.	The solution is not realistic or implementable	The solution can be implemented to varying degrees, may face obstacles	The solution can easily be implemented
20%	Alignment with challenge	Do the presenters address both business and technical challenges ? Do they address both single-use plastics and microbes (<i>Note: microbes can include entire microbes, or parts of microbes (e.g. enzymes), or parts that have been derived from microbes and transplanted into other systems</i>).	Something is missing of the four (technical challenge, business challenge, single-use plastics or microbes)	All four topics are addressed (technical challenge, business challenge, single-use plastics or microbes) but some only trivially.	All four topics (technical challenge, business challenge, single-use plastics or microbes) are addressed with reasonable depth
20%	Team/Collaboration	Does the team have a diversity of skills/roles (Science, Business, Engineer, Design)	The team composition is not diverse or shows minimal collaboration between expertise domains.	A moderately diverse team has demonstrated some integration in their solution.	A diverse team has shown success at collaboration and creating an integrated solution.
20%	Presentation	Does the presentation clearly deliver the problem and solution?	Presentation disorganized/unclear	Present problem and solution but presentation unpolished.	Problem clearly presented, solution clearly identified – audience is sold!

12. General Conditions:

Participants agree to use the use of their submission, along with their name, address, voice, statements about Hack the Plastics and photograph or other likeness without further notice or compensation, in any publicity or advertisement carried out by the organizers in any manner whatsoever, including print, broadcast or the internet.

Participants grant the organizers permission to record or photograph the participant during the hackathon period and the right to use the images without further notice or compensation in any publicity or advertisement carried out by the organizers in any manner.

Organizers of Hack the Plastics are not responsible for (i) website failure during the hackathon period, (ii) technical malfunction relating to telephone network or lines, computer systems, servers, access providers, computer equipment or software, (iii) failure of entry relating to technical difficulties, (iv) any damage to participant's or another person's computer in relation to downloads or physical damage, (v) any illness, injury, sleep deprivation, stress related illness/injury or any other illness/injury of any kind that is claimed to be related to the hackathon event.

Participants agree to hold harmless the organizers from all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, liability or losses of any kind (including legal fees and expenses), known or unknown, absolute or contingent, now or in the future.

The organizers have the right to withdraw, suspend or amend the hackathon in any way in the event of any error, technical difficulty, virus, bug, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failure or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of the organizers that interferes with the proper conduct of this hackathon. The organizers have the right to amend these rules, without prior notice or obligation. The organizers have the right to change the date or cancel the hackathon or any part thereof.

Hack the Plastics is subject to all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws. All judging decisions are final.