Schwalbach Geospatial Student Hackathon

Frequently Asked Questions

Latest update: July 30, 2025



General Information

Question	Answer
What is the hackathon about?	**Innovate with Live Maps and AI to Shape the Future of Mobility and Smart Cities.** Read on to learn more.
When will the event take place?	The event will take place from **11 to 12 September 2025 (Thursday & Friday)**
How long does the hackathon last?	2-day event
How long will the event be? Starting and closing hours.	**Day 1**: 08:45 - 18:30 CET **Day 2:** 09:00 - 20:00 CET
Where is the location?	**HERE Schwalbach office** Am Kronberger Hang 8 65824 Schwalbach am Taunus *Wheelchair accessible.*
Until when can I sign up for the hackathon?	**August 29, 2025**

Participation and Eligibility

Question	Answer
Who can participate in the hackathon? Are there any eligibility criteria?	• **Active student status** valid at least until the end of **December 2025** is required (either Bachelor's, Master's) ○ Why is this important? The winning team will be awarded paid internships. If you do not have active student status, we will not be able to provide you with the award if your solution is selected as the best one. • Students enrolled at universities in Germany will be eligible for acceptance.
Can I participate in more than one location?	• Yes, you can participate in more than one hackathon as long as you are studying in the country where the hackathon takes place. • This year we host several on-site hackathons around the world e.g. Mumbai, Berlin, Krakow, Chicago.
Registration guidelines for students	**If registering as a group/team**: • Each student must sign up individually • During the sign-up process, be sure to enter your chosen group or team name so we can link you together. Team/group name:* **Alternatively**, if you prefer to **sign up individually** without a team, the organizers will randomly assign you to a group.
Team composition	• Each team should consist of up to **3 (three) members** (recommended).
Can I join a team at the event?	You can't join a team at the event. Team formation is done by HERE after the registration is closed (August 29, 2025) based on individual applications.

What skills do I need to have to join the hackathon?	• The hackathon's target audience is students from geoinformatics or similar fields with a background in geospatial concepts. However, if you come from a different field of study and have experience working with spatial data, programming, or data analytics, you are also welcome! • Effective communication in English is necessary for interacting with organizers and team, and the final presentation of the results will also be in English. **Suggested tools/software skills:** • Aptitude for data analysis & processing. • Basic knowledge of geospatial concepts, data types and how to work with them. • Machine Learning skills are preferred. • GIS software or programming language (e.g. Python) fitting for geospatial data processing.

Registration

Question	Answer
How can I register for the hackathon?	Follow the registration link.
Is there a registration fee?	The registration is free.

Preparation and Requirements

Question	Answer
What will be the challenge on the hackathon?	*Digital maps are the living foundation on which every modern mobility, logistics, and smart-city service is built, and where the pace of change is accelerating in the Agentic Age. Apply your geospatial skills and fresh thinking to innovate with HERE around real-world problems with live maps, knowledge graphs and more.*
What should I bring to the hackathon?	Laptop, charger, photo identification and snacks.
Do I need to bring my laptop?	Yes, there will be no laptops provided.
Do I need to sign an NDA?	Students need to sign a **Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** for a hackathon to ensure that any ideas, projects, or sensitive information (e.g. HERE data) remain confidential. This helps protect everyone's work and encourages a safe environment for innovation and collaboration. NDAs will be signed at the hackathon.

What is an NDA?	An NDA, or Non-Disclosure Agreement, is a legal contract between two or more parties that outlines confidential information they wish to share with each other for certain purposes but want to keep private from others. Here's a simple breakdown: • **Purpose**: To protect sensitive information from being shared with anyone outside the agreement. • **Parties Involved**: Usually between companies, or between a company and an individual (like a student or employee). • **Confidential Information**: This can include anything from business plans, product designs, to research data. • **Obligations**: The parties agree not to disclose the information to others and to use it only for the agreed purpose. In essence, an NDA helps ensure that any important or sensitive information you share remains protected and isn't used inappropriately.

Themes and Tools

Question	Answer
What are the themes or problem statements for the hackathon?	***There will be 4 (four) different challenges of which each team will have to choose 1 (one):*** 1. ***Map Making - Keeping Maps Fresh and Relevant*** *Detect changes in maps, find missed data (roads, POIs, etc.), analyze and validate map data - use case specific (e.g. supporting urban development, "last meter routing" data for delivery or emergency)* 2. ***Probe Data - Insights with vehicle movement data*** *Harness anonymized GPS traces to spot missing roads, lane closures, speed-limit discrepancies, or unusual routing behavior.* 3. ***Geocoding/Search - use AI/LLMs to search for addresses by natural language*** *Today, address search at HERE follows a structured approach with some fuzzy text matching. Use AI/LLMs to support search by natural language to allow for more natural expressions of addresses to be correctly interpreted as address queries.* 4. ***HERE Mapmaking and FOSS (4G)*** *Build your Web/Mobile App connected to the HERE Map Making ecosystem. Connect the HERE Mapmaking ecosystem with the FOSS(4G) and open data to show the potential of combining them for getting insights into data and solving real world problems. The use-case can be manifold - solving your everyday challenges to find a nice location on your private map to a combination of many data sets for decision making for transport or urban planning or in disaster management.* **Note:** detailed description of the datasets, schemas and requirements will be provided to participants at the start of the event.
Are there any specific technologies or tools or sources we need to use?	Students are welcome to use any technology, tools or open-source datasets at their disposal. However, HERE will not provide any additional software or hardware outside of Wi-Fi access.

Event Logistics

Question	Answer
Will there be any pre-event workshops or sessions?	Yes, we will be offering a pre-event workshop. Further details will be shared soon.
Will meals be provided during the event?	Yes, during the event, students will be provided with lunch and drinks. To close the event, we will provide pizza. You can also bring your own snacks, but make sure not to litter.
Is accommodation provided for participants?	No, accommodation is not provided.
Will there be transport provided?	No, transport is not provided.
What resources will be provided to participants?	Data, Wi-Fi, food & drinks, mentors, and support on site.
Is there any technical support available during the event?	Yes, HERE IT team will support the event.

Support

Question	Answer
How can I contact the organizers for more information?	Contact us via e-mail schwalbachhackathon@here.com
What if I have to leave the event early?	If participants leave the event early and do not attend the final project presentations, they will not be eligible for a Certificate of Participation or the potential first prize
Can I volunteer for the hackathon?	At this time, we are accepting two volunteer applications.

Judging and Prizes

Question	Answer
How will the projects be judged?	At the conclusion of the Hackathon, each team will have 10 minutes to present their solution to the selected judges and fellow participants.
Who are the judges and mentors?	More information to be shared soon.
What are the criteria for judging?	Criteria for judging will be catered to the individual problem statement for the event. However, in general terms, solutions will be judged on the following: • Innovation & Creativity • Technical Realization • Scalability & Business Value

What are the prizes for the winners?	**1st prize:**
	• The winning team (3 members) will be awarded an internship at HERE Technologies:
	  ○ Internships will be from October 1 to December 31, 2025.
	  ○ Interns will work up to 20 hours per week for up to 12 weeks, depending on team size. The role is hybrid, with one in-office day per week. Therefore, interns must be able to commute to a HERE office location.
	2nd Prize:
	• Each member of the 2nd place team (maximum 3 people) will receive one Amazon voucher.

Will participants receive any complimentary items as part of the event experience?	Yes, HERE branded merchandise will be available for all participants.
Will participants receive any certificates or recognition?	All hackathon participants will receive certificates confirming their participation.
Will I get a participation certificate?	Yes.

Additional Opportunities

Question	Answer
Are there any opportunities for internships or job offers?	The hackathon is an opportunity to win an internship at HERE. HERE Technologies job offers are available in this link.
Will there be mentors available during the hackathon?	Yes, HERE personnel will be available for technical support, and there will be on-site help from the HERE Geospatial Community of Practice.