



BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



DATA SCIENCE + [X]
HACKATHON 2026

DS+X stands for Data Science
+ X: Where X is any domain,
discipline, or challenge you
want to explore.





ABOUT THE EVENT

DS+X is a student-run hackathon at Boston University that explores how data science becomes transformative when combined with other disciplines. From AI and art to wellness, bioinformatics, and finance, the event invites participants from all backgrounds to merge their expertise with data science to turn bold ideas into reality.

More than just the final product, DS+X values creativity, ethics, design, and collaboration. Through workshops and mentorship, students gain hands-on skills in responsible innovation and cross-disciplinary thinking, preparing them to become the next generation of leaders at the intersection of data and society.

➤ FIRST OBJECTIVE

Create a space where students can bring their own interests, backgrounds, and perspectives to data science. DS+X encourages participants to explore the intersection of data science with fields like health + medicine, art + design, college life, finance, climate, public policy, education, and more—turning interdisciplinary ideas into meaningful, working prototypes.

➤ SECOND OBJECTIVE

Give students the tools, mentorship, and collaborative environment to experiment, learn, and build regardless of their technical experience. Through hands-on workshops, mentorship, and teamwork, participants develop technical and creative skills while connecting with peers and gaining confidence in bringing their ideas to life.





2026 HACKATHON TRACKS

➤ COLLEGE HACK

FOCUS AREAS: DATA SCIENCE, AI, RAGS, AND DATA DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Explore how AI and data science can uncover insights that will improve college life and the student experience. Participants will build their own solutions and respond to challenges provided by BU's IS&T department.



➤ HEALTH HACK

FOCUS AREAS: HEALTH ANALYTICS, AI FOR HEALTHCARE, BIOMED DATA

Explore how data science and AI can address challenges across health and medicine. Participants analyze health data and develop innovative, data-driven solutions to real-world problems.



➤ ART HACK

FOCUS AREAS: CREATIVE AI, GENERATIVE ART, PHYSICAL COMPUTING

Blend creativity and technology to transform ideas into interactive experiences. Participants experiment with generative art, creative AI, and physical computing to build engaging projects.



➤ FIRST HACK

FOCUS AREAS: GUIDED WORKSHOPS, MENTORSHIP, STARTER TOOLKIT

A specialized track to help first time hackers navigate the hackathon experience with introductory workshops and hands-on mentorship. Participants gain skills that will help them build their first hackathon project.





WHY SPONSOR US?



➤ INCREASED BRAND VISIBILITY

- Gain exposure to a diverse community of students, professionals, and tech enthusiasts.
- Promote your brand through flyers, posters, t-shirts, banners, social media, and more.
- Elevate your brand through our Opening Ceremony, sponsored meals, and event activities.

➤ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Participate in hackathons, workshops, and career events to showcase your organization.
- Engage with students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds in tech.
- Build connections with students, sponsors, mentors, and the broader BU community.

➤ ACCESS TO TALENT

- Connect with talented students seeking internships, careers, and industry opportunities.
- Access student resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and GitHub portfolios to discover emerging talent.
- Arrange on-site interviews and conversations with students throughout the event.

➤ CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Demonstrate your commitment to help build Boston's future AI-centered workforce.
- Empower students through hands-on learning and technical skill development.
- Inspire students to explore new ideas and innovative solutions to real-world challenges.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



➤ PRIZE SPONSORSHIP

MINIMUM: \$500 PER AWARD

- Sponsor prizes for winning teams.
- Align your brand with theme or a technical domain.
- Receive recognition throughout the event and at the ceremonies.

➤ EVENT SPONSORSHIP

FLEXIBLE CONTRIBUTION

- Support event planning, food, supplies, and other essential costs.
- Gain recognition as an official DS+X sponsor.
- Help create an engaging experience for BU students.



➤ TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

IN-KIND OR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- Provide hackers access to datasets, hardware, APIs, or cloud credits.
- Give students hands-on experience with industry technologies.
- Showcase your support for student innovation and emerging tech.

➤ TALENT & PROGRAMMING

FLEXIBLE CONTRIBUTION

- Support workshops, mentorship, networking, and career programs.
- Connect with talented BU students through mentoring opportunities.
- Build relationships with emerging talent across tech and data.





September, 2035

CONNECT WITH US!

Please let the Spark!
team know as soon as
possible if your company
is interested in being a
Sponsor/Partnering with
the DS+X Hackathon.

GET IN TOUCH



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