TECHNATION CA

CAREER READY PROGRAM

TELUS

AI at the edge of innovation.

A virtual student hackathon.

Canada

Meet your hosts

Today's session will be guided by Mursal Khyabani (TELUS) and Tim Sidock (TECHNATION), who will lead the kickoff, fireside chat, and key moments throughout the hackathon.

They'll help set the stage, keep things on track, and support teams as they get started.

Mursal Khyabani

Manager, Engineering & Technology
Co-op Program
TELUS

Tim Sidock

Program Marketing & Development
Senior Manager
TECHNATION

GTLP & Co-op

Build technical competencies

- Work on real-world challenges
- Utilize leading edge technologies
- Receive technical mentoring

Develop leadership skills

- Coaching & performance development
- Lead sub-programs & learning communities
- Hackathons & innovation projects

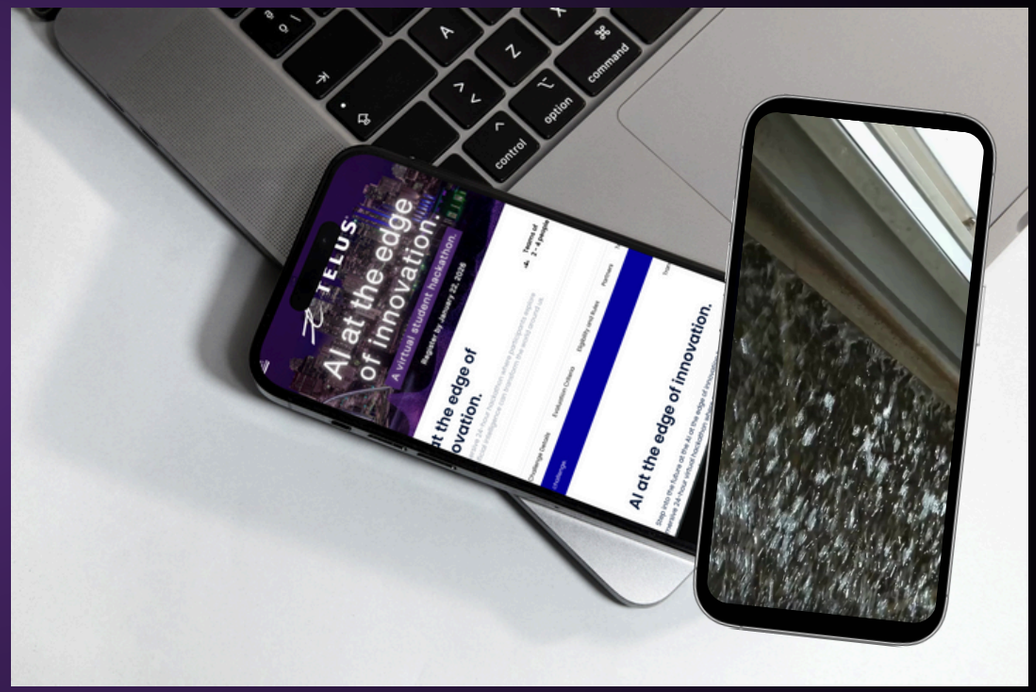
Establish long-term connections

- Peer mentors
- Leader mentors
- Diverse networking opportunities

About the Challenge

AI at the edge of innovation challenges teams to design practical AI solutions that operate in real-world environments.

Participants will build systems that interact with the physical world or function autonomously, with a strong focus on impact, feasibility, and responsible innovation.



All solutions must be developed within a 24-hour timeframe.

Challenge Themes

Choose one track to guide your solution.

AI + IoT

The Connected Intelligence Revolution. Bringing intelligence to the physical world.

AI + Automation

Fully Autonomous Solutions. Removing the human from the loop

AI + Healthcare & Wellness

Human-Centered Care. Technology that heals and helps.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated across four areas: innovation, technical implementation, impact and feasibility, and presentation quality.

Judges will assess originality, code quality, AI integration, real-world applicability, and the clarity and effectiveness of the final pitch and demo

The full evaluation criteria will be revealed on Agorize at 12:00 AM ET (9:00 AM PT)

Deadline

Teams will have 24 hours to design, build, and submit their solutions over the hackathon weekend.

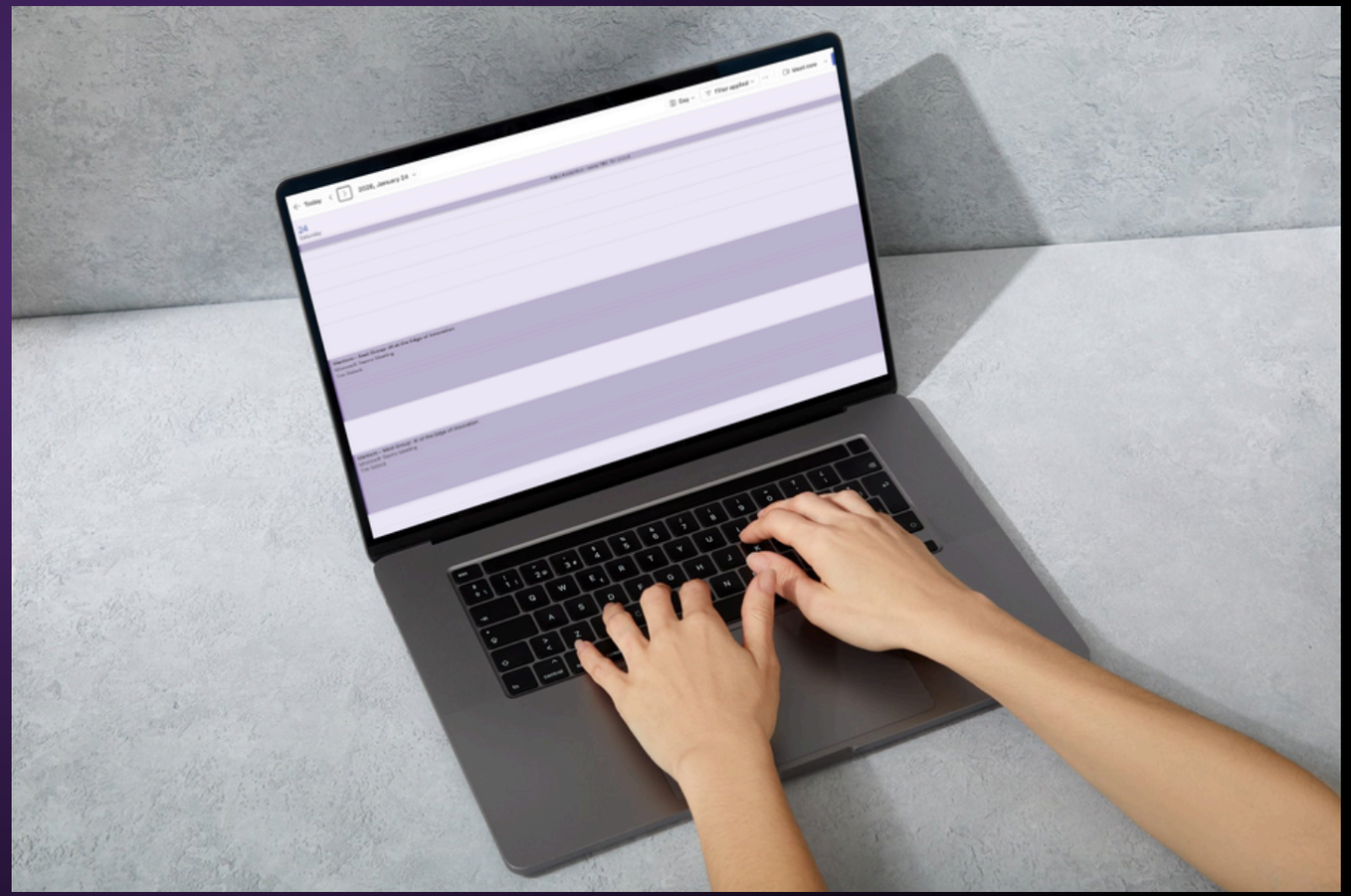
Final submissions will be reviewed during the Virtual Jury session on Sunday, January 26, from 12:00-3:00 p.m. ET, followed by the Final Pitch presentations from 6:00-9:00 p.m. ET.

Submission Checklist: Video demo (3–5 min), pitch deck (5–10 slides), GitHub repository, and README with setup instructions.

Mentor Session

- East Group
  Sat | 6:00–8:00 p.m. ET

- West Group
  Sat | 9:00–11:00 p.m. ET



Use mentor sessions to validate ideas, get technical feedback, and refine your approach

Prizes

TELUS will also award exclusive AI Factory t-shirts, TELUS critter plushies, and winners will be offered a phone screen opportunity for co-op and new grad opportunities at TELUS.

Cash Prizes

First Place

$2,000 per team member

Second Place

$1,250 per team member

Third Place

$750 per team member

Live Demo

Presented by Roshan Raj

Models for Hackathon

Model List

Model	Best for	Choose This If...
gemma-3-27b	General AI	You're not sure which model to use (best default)
qwen-emb	Search & RAG	You need embeddings or vector search
qwen3coder30b	Coding	Your app writes, analyzes or debugs code
deepseekv32	Reasoning	Your app solves complex logic or math problems
gpt-oss-120b	Advanced AI	You want the most powerful model for ambitious ideas

Model endpoint and credentials

Model	Endpoint	Access token
gemma-3-27b	https://gemma-3-27b-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com	dc8704d41888afb2b889a8ebac81d12f
qwen-emb	https://qwen-emb-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com	d14ac3d17de38782334555fcc0537969
qwen3coder30b	https://qwen3coder30b-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com	b12e6fdc447aedf5cfce126b721e1854
deepseekv32	https://deepseekv32-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com	a12a7d3705b12aeb46eb4cc8d77f5446
gpt-oss-120b	https://rr-test-gpt-120-9219s.paas.ai.telus.com	1df668838dee5b8410e8e21a76fd9bb9

How to use model inference endpoint and access token

Any HTTP/HTTPS client or SDK that supports the OpenAI-compatible API can access these models using the provided endpoint and access token.

```
curl -X POST https://gemma-3-27b-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com/v1/completions \
    -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
    -H "Authorization: Bearer dc8704d41888afb2b889a8ebac81d12f" \
    -d '{
    "model": "google/gemma-3-27b-it",
     "prompt": "Explain the difference between supervised learning and unsupervised learning in machine learning.",
    "max_tokens": "300"
    }'
```

Sample python code to consume inference endpoint

```
from openai import OpenAI

client = OpenAI(
    base_url="https://gemma-3-27b-3ca9s.paas.ai.telus.com/v1",
    api_key="dc8704d41888afb2b889a8ebac81d12f"
)


response = client.completions.create(
    model="google/gemma-3-27b-it",
    prompt="Explain the difference between supervised learning and unsupervised learning in machine learning.",
    max_tokens=300
)

print(response.choices[0].text)
```

Fireside Chat

The fireside chat will explore TELUS' Sovereign AI Factory, including what it is, why it was built, and how it supports secure, high-performance AI at scale.

The discussion will highlight its impact on TELUS customers and Canada's AI ecosystem, and offer insight into how TELUS plans to evolve this capability moving forward.

Saeed Otufat-Shamsi

Director, AI Factory, TELUS

Brett Hotas

Executive Director, Future Workforce Development Strategy