HARVARD T.H. CHAN | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Health Systems Innovation Lab

HSIL HACKATHON 2027 · 8TH EDITION

Building High-Value Health Systems: Leveraging AI

Applicant Guide: How to Apply

The HSIL Global Health Systems Hackathon brings together students, clinicians, researchers, technologists, entrepreneurs and other innovators at hubs around the world to design high-value health system solutions. This guide walks you through the online application, step by step, so you can apply with confidence.

AT A GLANCE

Free to apply
No application or participation fee

Solo or team
Apply on your own or with teammates

No idea needed
Many teams form their idea at the Hackathon

One online form
Five short sections, then submit

2027 KEY DATES

Hackathon	→	Bootcamp 1	→	Bootcamp 2	→	Venture Building Immersion	→	Demo Day
Apr 16–17		Apr 19–30		May 3–14		May 24 – Jun 18		Sep 29

YOUR APPLICATION IN FIVE STEPS

Open the application link	→	Fill in the form	→	Coordinate your team	→	Submit & get confirmation	→	Hear from your hub
Section 1		Section 2		Section 3		Section 4		Section 4

BEFORE YOU START, HAVE READY

- ✓ An email address you check often. Your confirmation goes there.
- ✓ About 100 words on what you will bring to a team.
- ✓ The hub you want to join, in your country or city.
- ✓ If you have an idea: about 100 words on the problem you want to solve.
- ✓ If you're in a team: your team name and teammates' email addresses.
- ✓ Optional: a LinkedIn profile, personal website or GitHub link.

1 The Application Link and Your Hub

The Hackathon takes place **in person** at innovation hubs around the world. You apply to the hub you will attend.

Apply here: `https://airtable.com/appNA0PjzuuL7gcjs/pagyDjANA7F1fJYcV/form?hide_fldDbFmllkSiC0mwv=true`
The same link is shared by HSIL and by every hub.

1

Find your hub

Under **"Which hub will you join?"**, click the button and type your country or city, for example "Nigeria" or "Lagos".

2

Pick the right one

Some cities have more than one hub, each with a different host institution. Choose the one you will attend in person.

Can't find your city? Choose the hub you can realistically attend in person on April 16–17, 2027. The list of participating hubs is on the HSIL Hackathon website.

2 Filling In the Form

Questions marked with a red * are required. The form shows extra questions only when they apply to you.

Section	What we ask
1 · About you	First and last name, email, gender, age group, what best describes you (e.g. student, clinician, technologist, founder), and where you study or work and in what field, e.g. "MPH student, University of Nairobi"
2 · Your hub	The hub you will join, found by searching your country or city.
3 · Your team	Whether you are applying on your own or with a team. Team applicants also give their **team name** and **teammates' emails**, one per line.
4 · Your idea and skills	Whether you already have an idea. If yes: the problem you want to work on (about 100 words) and how far along it is (idea, user validation or demonstrated traction). Everyone: up to three health areas of interest, and what you will bring to a team (about 100 words). Optional profile link.
5 · Final step	How you heard about the Hackathon, and optional research consent. Consent does not affect your application.

Tips for the two written answers

What problem do you want to work on?

Say who is affected, why it matters and what you would change. Plain language beats jargon. Local context is welcome.

What will you bring to a team?

Name your skills and experience (clinical, technical, business, design, policy or lived experience) and what you hope to build or learn.

3 Applying as a Team

- ✓ **Every team member must submit their own application.** One form per team is not enough.
- ✓ Use **exactly the same team name** as your teammates, e.g. "Salud 123 Team", so your hub can group you together.
- ✓ All team members should apply to the **same hub**.
- ✓ Teams of about 3–5 people with different skills are encouraged.
- ✗ Don't submit applications on behalf of teammates. Each person applies with their own email address.

No team? No problem. Apply as an **individual**. Solo applicants can meet teammates through their hub.

4 After You Submit

1
On-screen confirmation
A thank-you message appears as soon as your application is submitted.

2
Confirmation email
An automatic email arrives from **HSIL Hackathon 2027 (no-reply)**. Check spam or junk if you don't see it. Please don't reply to it.

3
Your hub reviews
Your hub reviews applications based on its capacity and fit, then contacts selected applicants with next steps.

5 Changing Your Application

Each person has **one application**. To change yours, simply **submit the form again with the same email address**. Your latest application automatically replaces the earlier one. This works for:

- Fixing a typo or wrong answer
- Switching from individual to team
- Switching from team to individual
- Changing your team name
- Choosing a different hub

Use the same email every time. A different email address creates a separate application, and your hub may see two entries.

6 Frequently Asked Questions

Q Does it cost anything to apply?
No. Applying to and taking part in the HSIL Hackathon is free.

Q Do I need an idea to apply?
No. Many strong teams form their idea at the Hackathon, and some hubs share local challenge statements.

Q Is there an age limit?
Age requirements are set by each hub. If you are unsure, check with your local hub before applying.

Q Can I apply to more than one hub?
No. Each person submits one application, to the hub they will attend in person. Applying again replaces your earlier choice.

Q Is the Hackathon online?
The Hackathon on April 16–17 is in person at your hub. The Venture Building Program that follows for selected teams is fully virtual.

Q I didn't get a confirmation email.
Check spam or junk for a message from HSIL Hackathon 2027 (no-reply). Make sure you typed your email correctly; if not, submit again with the right one.

Q My teammate hasn't applied yet.
Remind them that every team member must apply, using the same team name and hub.

Q How are participants selected?
Each hub reviews applications based on its capacity and the overall fit of applicants. Strong applicants may not be selected when a hub receives more applications than it can host.

Q Who owns the ideas I develop?
Your team does. HSIL takes no equity and does not claim your intellectual property. See the HSIL Hackathon FAQ for details.

Q What does research consent mean?
If you tick it, HSIL may use your anonymised application data for research to improve the Hackathon. It is optional and does not affect your application.

7 Questions?

For questions about your hub, its deadline, venue or selection, **contact your local hub** using the details on its website or the HSIL Hackathon website.

We look forward to your application. **Thank you for helping build high-value health systems with HSIL Hackathon 2027.**