

PUBLIC NOTICE



Date: Wednesday, 30th September 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UCC TESTBED HACKATHON 2026

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), established under the Uganda Communications Act, Cap. 103, is mandated, among other functions, to promote research into the development and use of new communications techniques and technologies. In fulfilment of this mandate, UCC established the National Communications Testbed for Emerging and Future Technologies at the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT), Nakawa, as a facility to support research, innovation, testing and demonstration of emerging and future technologies. It is open to researchers, innovators, students, startups and industry who want to build and test ideas in 4G and 5G, artificial intelligence and machine learning, the Internet of Things, software development and virtual reality.

UCC has engaged an implementing partner comprising of netLabs!UG, Research and Education Network for Uganda, the Makerere University Technology and Innovation Centre and NextGen Restyling Uganda to organise the UCC Testbed Hackathon 2026. This is an innovation challenge that will bring Together emerging technology talent to develop practical solutions for creating safer digital spaces for children.

UCC therefore invites university students, recent graduates and young technologists to apply to participate in the UCC Testbed Hackathon 2026, scheduled for 5th and 6th November 2026 at the UCC Testbed and Innovation Hub at UICT, Nakawa. Participants will have an opportunity to develop, test and demonstrate innovative ideas using the capabilities of the National Communications Testbed, with access to technical mentorship and support throughout the Hackathon.

The Hackathon has a central theme of "Innovating Safer Cyber Spaces for Children through Artificial Intelligence", focusing on innovative solutions such as content filtering, parental controls and protection mechanisms, and on reporting, response and referral, exploring technologies that can strengthen the reporting of and response to online harms and link users to appropriate child protection services.

Who Can Apply

Applications are open to university students, recent graduates and technologists. Applicants with skills or experience in areas such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity, mobile networks, software development, embedded systems, IoT and related technology fields are encouraged to apply. Female participants are also encouraged to apply.

Forty (40) participants will be selected to take part in the Hackathon and work in teams to develop prototype solutions. The programme will include build sessions, technical mentorship, pitch coaching, final demonstrations and judging.

Scan Here to Apply



Application deadline: 5:00 pm on 16th October 2026

For More Details



@UCC_Official



@ConsumerUCC



info@ucc.co.ug



www.ucc.co.ug



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Tollfree: 0800 222 777