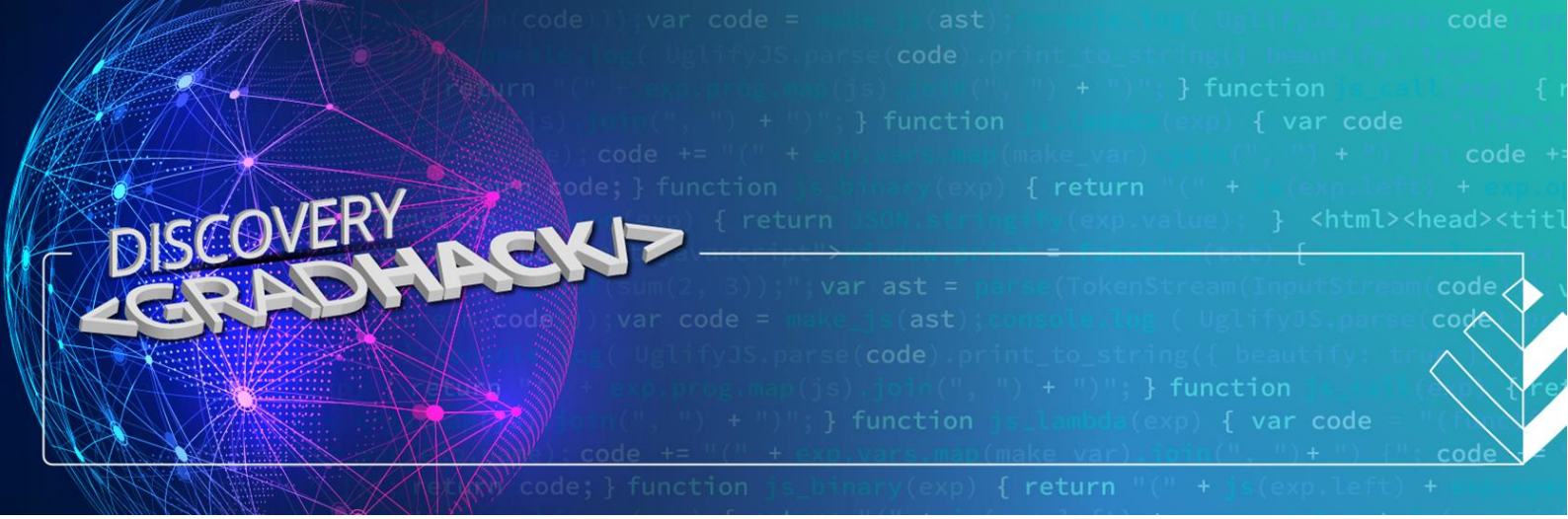


GRADHACK FAQ 2026

Theme	Question	Answer
Entries	1. Who can enter?	All South African students currently in their final year of studies in IT, Computer Science, Information Systems, Data Science, or related technology fields at a South African university or academy (NQF 6 or higher).
	2. Can I re-enter Gradhack?	Yes. Previous participants may re-enter Gradhack, provided they still meet the eligibility requirements at the time of application.
	3. Is there a cost to entry?	No. Entry to Gradhack is free.
	4. Can Foreign National students enter the Gradhack event?	Yes, foreign national students may participate in the event. However, as a BBEEE organisation, Discovery prioritises candidates who meet specific transformation criteria, particularly when considering post-event opportunities.
Judging criteria	5. How are entries judged for participation?	Applications are reviewed based on academic background, technical capability, problem-solving approach, and alignment to the Gradhack themes identified by Discovery.
	6. How will the solutions be judged during the virtual event?	Teams are evaluated on how effectively they interpret and solve the **assigned Discovery business requirement**, including technical execution, solution quality, feasibility, and progression over the weekend. Discovery mentors and guests review teams throughout the event to identify the top 3 finalists.
	7. How will the top 3 teams be judged?	Finalists are judged on solution impact, technical depth, innovation within constraints, and how well feedback and mentor guidance were incorporated into their final prototype and presentation.

Theme	Question	Answer
Structure of the event	8. Is this an in-person or online event?	Gradhack 2026 is a fully virtual hackathon taking place on 24 and 25 July 2026. The top three teams will be invited to an in-person Finals event at 1 Discovery Place, Sandton, on 7 August 2026.
	9. Can I participate as an individual or do I need a team?	Participation is team-based. Teams typically consist of **2 to 4 members**.
	10. Will there be support available during the event?	Yes. Teams receive support from Discovery mentors, technical experts, and business stakeholders across the weekend.
	11. What do I need for the event?	A laptop, charger, reliable internet connection, and readiness to work intensively with Discovery-provided data, tools, and business requirements.
	12. What will happen during the virtual event?	Teams receive a **new assigned Discovery business requirement** within their selected theme and use the weekend to design, prototype, and refine a solution. The event includes mentor check-ins, technical support, and structured review sessions.
	13. What kind of challenges can we expect during the event?	Teams must work within real-world constraints such as predefined requirements, limited time, incomplete information, and evolving feedback, mirroring real Discovery delivery environments.
Opportunities at Discovery	14. What are the career development and growth opportunities available?	Gradhack offers exposure to real Discovery problems, people, and ways of working. Participants may be considered for permanent roles such as Developers, Business Analysts, or Data-focused roles, depending on performance and business needs.
	15. Is there a bursary or learning support provided?	Discovery bursaries and training programmes are available to permanent employees only. No bursaries are offered to non-employees.
Recruitment	16. Will all participants be considered for recruitment?	Participants who successfully complete their qualifications and are available for permanent placement may be considered for employment, subject to business needs and BBEEE requirements.
	17. When will candidates be required to start at Discovery?	Successful candidates typically start permanent roles in the year following Gradhack, subject to qualification completion and offer acceptance.

Theme	Question	Answer
	18. What roles will be recruited for?	Roles usually include Software Developers, Business Analysts, Data focused roles, UX Designers and related technology positions, depending on business demand.
	19. Are there EE requirements for permanent positions?	Yes. Discovery's Employment Equity Plan and targets are considered in all recruitment decisions. The company actively encourages applications from people with disabilities.
	20. Will Foreign National students be considered for employment?	While foreign nationals may participate in Gradhack, priority for permanent employment is given to South African nationals to meet BBEEE and regulatory requirements.
	21. What happens if I'm offered a role but don't complete my studies?	Permanent roles require a completed qualification. If studies are not completed successfully, the employment offer will be withdrawn.
	22. What if I receive an offer but choose to continue studying full-time?	Gradhack roles are permanent. If you choose to continue full-time studies, the employment offer will be retracted.
Finals event	23. If my team makes it to the Finals, will there be any expenses to attend?	No. The top 3 teams are invited to the Finals at Discovery's Sandton campus, with travel, accommodation, and meals fully covered.

For queries please contact
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