



INFORMATION FOR UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

UNIVERSITY FAQ

Clear answers about the AI product-building hackathon,
student applications and the optional 6 ECTS course.

12-15 NOV

Vilnius, Lithuania

250

selected participants

6 ECTS

available through ISM

NO CODING

experience required

Everything universities need to know

Unfair Weekend is a four-day AI product-building hackathon at ISM University in Vilnius. This guide covers the event, applications, travel, the optional 6 ECTS route and practical ways universities can collaborate.

THE EVENT

01 What is Unfair Weekend?

Unfair Weekend is a four-day AI product-building hackathon at ISM University in Vilnius. It brings together 250 selected students and young professionals to form interdisciplinary teams and turn ideas into working digital products, supported by founders, engineers, product experts and investors.

02 When and where does it take place?

Unfair Weekend takes place in person at ISM University in Vilnius on 12-15 November 2026.

03 Who can take part?

We welcome students and young professionals from every discipline. Participants may come from business, marketing, design, technology, medicine, sport or any other field where they see a problem worth solving. Entrepreneurship and innovation programmes are a natural fit, but the event is deliberately interdisciplinary.

04 Do students need programming experience?

No. Students do not need a programming background. We provide the AI tools, practical guidance and technical mentorship they need to turn an idea into a working digital product.

05 What will participants do during the hackathon?

Participants form interdisciplinary teams, choose or refine a real problem, build and test an MVP, and present the result to leading founders and investors. The emphasis is on shipping a working product in four days, not only discussing an idea.

06 What happens after the event?

The most promising teams may continue receiving introductions, mentorship and support as they explore turning their hackathon product into a startup.

APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

07 How do students apply?

Students apply individually through a short form at unfairweekend.com. The application asks a few questions about the product or app they want to build and their motivation for joining.

08 Do students need a team or a finished product before applying?

No. Students can apply and participate solo, apply with an existing team, or find teammates on Discord before the event or on-site in Vilnius. They do not need a finished product to apply. Every MVP presented at Unfair Weekend should be built from scratch during the event.

09 Does the university need to nominate or select students?

No. Universities do not need to nominate or pre-select students. Students apply independently, and the Unfair Weekend selection committee evaluates their applications.

10 What are the application deadlines?

The early application deadline is 30 September 2026, with results on 2 October. The final deadline is 28 October 2026, with results on 30 October. If a student has a genuine timing constraint, please contact us and we will do our best to help.

11 How does selection work?

The event has space for 250 selected participants. Our committee reviews each applicant's idea, motivation and potential contribution. Universities can invite all relevant students to apply without needing to predict who will be selected.

THE OPTIONAL 6 ECTS COURSE

12 Can international students receive 6 ECTS credits?

Yes. Students selected for and participating in Unfair Weekend can receive 6 ECTS credits through ISM's course built around the event. Visiting students can complete the remaining course submissions remotely. The student's home institution decides whether and how to recognise the credits.

13 Which course provides the credits?

The credits come through ISM's Fundamentals of Digital Products Design course in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme. The course is built around Unfair Weekend.

14 Is the 6 ECTS course compulsory?

No. Students may participate only in the four-day hackathon without taking the course. The 6 ECTS pathway is optional for students who want academic credit and whose home institution can recognise it.

15 What are the course dates?

The pre-hackathon workshops run from 21 September to 1 October 2026. Unfair Weekend takes place on 12-15 November, followed by a reflection workshop on 18 November.

16 Must visiting students attend the pre-hackathon workshops?

No. International students coming specifically for Unfair Weekend do not need to attend the pre-hackathon workshops. They are welcome to join in person, but the essential in-person component is the hackathon in Vilnius on 12-15 November.

17 Can visiting students complete the remaining coursework remotely?

Yes. We can arrange the additional project submissions remotely, including an individual AI-built application and a reflection presentation. Students can complete the remaining work from home within one month after the hackathon.

18 How is the course assessed?

The course is practical rather than exam-based. The hackathon MVP and demonstration form the main part of the assessment, supported by an individual AI-built application and a post-hackathon reflection. We can provide the detailed syllabus to interested universities.

TRAVEL, COSTS AND FUNDING

19 Is there a participation fee?

No. There is no participation fee for the hackathon or for the optional 6 ECTS course.

20 Does Unfair Weekend cover travel or accommodation?

Participants normally arrange and cover their own travel and accommodation. We are happy to share practical, affordable suggestions to help international students plan their visit.

21 Do students need Erasmus funding to participate?

No. Erasmus or short-mobility funding is not a condition for participation. Students may join independently and cover their own trip. If the home university can support the mobility through Erasmus or another scheme, ISM can discuss the host documentation required.

22 What language will the event use?

The event and international participant communication are in English.

23 Will teams receive prizes?

Yes. Unfair Weekend recognises the strongest teams with prizes and further opportunities. The 2026 prize pool and individual awards will be announced closer to the event.

FOR UNIVERSITIES

24 What does joining as a university partner involve?

There is no fee or formal commitment. We simply ask the university to help share the opportunity with relevant students. With the university's agreement, we can also recognise it in the university Friends section of the Unfair Weekend website.

25 What communication materials can you provide?

We can provide a ready-to-forward student invitation, a short event presentation, course information, the detailed syllabus and printable posters. We can also adapt posters for specific campuses where useful.

26 Can you provide posters for multiple campuses?

Yes. We can prepare campus-specific poster files when useful, including the relevant city and departure airport.

27 Can your team present the opportunity to our students or faculty?

Yes. We would be happy to join a short online student, faculty or programme meeting, introduce the opportunity and answer questions. An in-person visit may also be possible where practical.

28 Who at our university might be interested in collaborating?

International-office colleagues can help share the opportunity broadly. Programme leads, lecturers, entrepreneurship and innovation teams, technology and design faculty, and relevant student clubs may also be valuable contacts. Because the event is interdisciplinary, collaboration does not need to be limited to business or entrepreneurship programmes.

**WOULD YOU LIKE
TO SHARE UNFAIR
WEEKEND WITH
YOUR STUDENTS?**

We can send a forwardable invitation, student slides, posters and the course syllabus, or arrange a short call with your team.

Vaida.Bitvinske@faculty.ism.lt
unfairweekend.com/universities