

Macquarie University - Hack Mac Competition Terms and Conditions - Game of Skill (Terms)

Item	Issue	Competition Requirement	
The Competition			
1	Competition Name / Description	Hack Mac 2025 (Hack Mac) is a cybersecurity themed Capture the Flag (CTF) Competition hosted by Macquarie University (University). The event aims to encourage participation with Cybersecurity concepts through hands on problem solving learning. Entrants will solve a diverse range of cybersecurity challenges and puzzles to earn ‘flags’ that earn points. There will be multiple challenges across multiple categories such as Open-Source Intelligence Gathering (OSINT), reverse engineering, binary exploitation, web security, cryptography, forensics and physical lockpicking.	
2	Important Dates	Competition Commencement Date	25 October 2025 9 AM
		Competition End Date	25 October 2025 5 PM
3	Event Location	TAFE Meadowbank	See St, Meadowbank NSW 2114, Australia
Who can enter – Guidelines			
4	Eligible Entrant	(a) Any person currently enrolled as a student in any course offered by any University in Australia; (b) Any person currently enrolled as a student in any course offered by any TAFE in Australia, and (c) Any student enrolled in any high school in Australia.	
5	Excluded Person	(a) Any person(s) who is under 15 years of age, and/or does not meet the Eligible Entrants criteria (a), (b), or (c), above. (b) Any participant under the age of 18 who cannot be supervised by a University staff/volunteer possessing a valid Working With Children’s (WWC) Check.	
How to enter			
6	How to enter	The Competition Entrants during the Competition Period must: (a) Go to the Hack Mac website located at https://hackmac2025.xyz/ ; (b) Click on ‘register’ and open the entry form to enter the competition; (c) Correctly provide all required details in the entry form, agree to the terms and conditions, and	

		(d) Submit the entry form.
7	Format of Entry Submission Requirements	Entry Requirements During the Competition Period To be eligible to participate in the Competition, Entrant(s) must comply with the following conditions: (a) Submit a fully completed entry form online via the designated online platforms as specified in the Competition guidelines; (b) Be physically present at the Event Location of the official Commencement Date of the Competition; (c) Undertake verification on the day of the Competition against the details provided in the online registration form and subsequently receive access credentials and a link to the official link to the Competition website; (d) Entrants will login and access the CTF platform using the credentials provided; (e) Submit comprehensive written mandatory explanations (Writeups) for all puzzles classified as medium difficulty or higher. These Writeups are a prerequisite to be eligible for the prizes and must follow the general format outlined here: https://pequalsnp-team.github.io/cheatsheet/writing-good-writeup; (f) Entrants will actively participate on the day by solving CTF's challenges and other activities to accumulate points. Winners will be determined based on the total points accrued and the integrity of their Writeups; (g) Entrants must provide their Student ID (if applicable) and a valid institutional email address (ending in.edu); (h) On the Competition Commencement date, a website link will be distributed to all verified participants; (i) All Entrants will submit their puzzle solutions CTF's to the website described above outlined at (e); (j) All verified participants must submit all required Writeups to cyber@mq.edu.au for review within one hour of the event conclusion to be eligible for prizes; (k) Writeups are not to be published, posted, distributed or shared in any capacity or otherwise disclosed prior to this deadline. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from prize eligibility; (l) All participants are required to bring their own device (BYOD) to participate in and access the Competition platform and associated challenges. Instructions on how to connect to the infrastructure will be provided on the day of the event. Spare workstations are extremely limited and using them is not recommended. (m) Entrants must refrain from unauthorised access, including but not limited to attacking, hacking, or brute-forcing any infrastructure not explicitly designated as part of the CTF challenges, and (n) Entrants are only allowed to collaborate with their partner. Cross-team collaboration is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification.

		(o) If a student is paired with another student from a different education category, the team will only be eligible for prizes in the category of the highest education level represented. For example, if a team includes both a high school and a university student, they will be considered under the University category. If they place in the top three of that category, they will qualify only for the Top University prize (as outlined in [11]) not for the Top High School prize. (p) In the event that there is an odd number of Entrants, one competitor may be permitted to compete solo in the CTF Competition.
Item	Issue	Competition Requirement
How the Competition will be Evaluated		
8	Verification of CTF Write-Ups provided by the Entrants	The HackMac organisation team will evaluate the legitimacy of each team's Write Up solutions and will verify that all participants have adhered to the rules.
9	Evaluation of Challenge Winners	The winning team will be determined based on the highest total points scored at the conclusion of the Competition. The same evaluation process will be applied to determine second and third place winners For the avoidance of doubt, the criteria for first, second and third place winners is on points only.
10	Evaluation Date	From 25 October 2025 to 10 November 2025 The University's Technology Team will be afforded a reasonable period to review the Write-ups to investigate and identify any potential instances of misconduct or irregularities before announcing the winners.
The Prize and Notification of the Winner		
11	Prizes	There will be a total of 12 winners (6 teams of 2). The winning team will be awarded prizes, the details of which will be announced at the start of the Hack Mac Competition on 25 October 2025. Please note prizes can be subject to change. Top Performance Overall First Place – MacBook Air 13" M4 Second Place – Dell P3424WEB WQHD 34" IPS Curved Monitor Third Place – Raspberry Pi 5 8GB Desktop Kit Top Performance Education Division Top High School – 6-month Pentesterlab Voucher Top TAFE – 6-month Pentesterlab Voucher Top University – 6-month Pentesterlab Voucher Each winner is only eligible to win one prize from each category. If someone wins the overall category, then the education division prize will be given to the next runner-up.
12	Winner notification	Winners will receive an email on the preferred email address

		provided on the entry form titled, "How to enter" outlined above. The winners will be decided following review of the Write-ups on Monday 10 November 2025. Notification and instructions on how to claim the prize will be provided by email and/or mobile to the winner(s).
13	Public Announcement of the Winner	A Discord group will be created on the Competition Commence Date for all Entrants to join. Public announcement will be via the following modes of communication: (a) Discord; (b) LinkedIn, and (c) Potentially other social media platforms
14	Latest date to Claim Prize	31 December 2025
Who to Contact		
15	Competition Contact Details	Mark Sim Macquarie University Cybersecurity Project Manager NSW 2109 Australia Email: mark.sim@mq.edu.au Mobile: 0426 886 822

1. About these Terms

- a) The terms that apply for the University competition described in the relevant Competition Details (the **Competition**) consist of (in order of priority if there is an inconsistency):
 - (i) the terms in this document;
 - (ii) the information, instructions and details contained in the Competition Details; and
 - (iii) any other information set out in promotional advertisements for the Competition, which together are the **Terms**.
- b) If there is a capitalised word used in this document, it will have the meaning given to it in the Competition Details.
- c) By entering the Competition, you accept the Terms.

2. Competition Organiser

The Competition organiser is **Macquarie University**, ABN 57 195 873 179 of Macquarie NSW 2109 (the **University**).

3. Who can enter?

- a) You are eligible to enter the Competition if you satisfy the Eligible Entrant criteria in the Competition Details and are not an Excluded Person.
- b) Applicants under the age of 18 will be supervised by University staff / volunteer with a valid Working With Children Check.

4. How to enter?

- a) The Competition will commence and end on the dates specified in the Competition Details (Competition Period). If there is no specific time for the Competition Closing Date set out in the Competition Details, the Competition will close at midnight on the day of the Competition Closing Date.
- b) To enter the Competition, you must submit your entry within the Competition End Date in accordance with the requirements set out in the Competition Schedule including following any steps and complying with the format requirements (if any) for a valid entry.
- c) You may only enter the Competition up to the Maximum Number of Entries. If you submit more entries than the Maximum Number of Entries, all of your entries in the Competition will be invalid and ineligible to win.
- d) Entry in the Competition is free. You are responsible for any costs associated with entering the Competition, which may include costs associated with accessing the internet and mail or transport costs.

5. Ineligible entries

- a) Any entry that is:
 - (i) submitted outside the Competition Period;
 - (ii) not completed in accordance with Terms;
 - (iii) incomplete; or
 - (iv) in the University's sole and absolute discretion, considered by the University to be defamatory, racist, otherwise unlawful or offensive,

will not be eligible to win and will be excluded from the Competition.

- b) Certain companies do not allow photographs to be taken of their brand or representatives. It is up to each Entrant to determine whether a photo they take includes a company's brand or a photo of their representatives that is prohibited. Photographs taken of the brand or representatives of prohibited companies will disqualify the entry.
- c) The University reserves the right, at any time, to verify the validity of entries and the eligibility of entrants and to disqualify any entrant who does not meet the eligibility criteria and to exclude an entry that is not in accordance with the Terms.
- d) All decisions about the eligibility of entrants and the validity of entries made by the University will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

6. Competition and the Prize

- a) The Competition is a game of skill, not chance. Evaluation of the winning team will be determined based on the highest total points scored at the conclusion of the Competition.
- b) Entries will be evaluated as specified in the Competition Details.
- c) The University reserves the right to determine not to award any prize.
- d) All decisions made by the University about the eligibility of entrants and the validity of entries will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- e) The Competition will be evaluated on or as close as reasonably possible to the date specified in the Competition Details and the winner will be awarded the Prize specified in the Competition Details.
- f) If your entry is evaluated as the winner, you will be notified by the means specified in the Competition Details.
- g) The University will make a Public Announcement of the winner(s).
- h) The winner must claim and collect their prize on or before Latest Date to Claim Prize.
- i) The Prize winner will be responsible for all costs associated with collecting and using the prize.
- j) The Prize is not redeemable for cash or an alternative prize.
- k) The entitlement to the Prize is not transferable.
- l) If the Prize is unavailable for any reason, the University may substitute another prize of equal or greater value to the one specified in the Competition Details. The University may, in its absolute discretion, award an additional prize of lesser value to the Prize if it considers an entrant is particularly noteworthy.
- m) The University makes no warranty as to the condition or use of any prize, and a winner accepts and uses a Prize at his or her own risk and expense.

7. Unclaimed prizes

If a winner does not claim their Prize before the Latest Date to Claim a Prize, the University may award the Prize to another valid entry. The selection of an alternate recipient for the Prize will be determined in the sole discretion of the University and no correspondence will be entered into. In such circumstances, the new winner/s will be notified in the same manner as the original winner.

8. Limitation of liability

- a) In the case of the intervention of any outside act, circumstances or event which prevents or significantly hinders the University's ability to proceed with the competition on the dates and in the manner described in these Terms, including but not limited to vandalism, power failures, natural disasters, acts of God, civil unrest, strike, war, or act of terrorism, the University may in its absolute discretion cancel the competition and the University will have no liability to any entrant or any other person as a result of such cancellation.
- b) To the maximum extent permitted by law, the University excludes its liability in respect of the Competition and these Terms. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the University will not be liable for any misadventure, accident, injury, loss, claim or expense (including but not limited to a claim for infringement of any copyright, trade mark or other intellectual property right, or any claim of a similar nature) that may occur as a result of or in connection with an entrant's entry into the Competition.
- c) The University is not responsible in any manner whatsoever for any problems or any financial costs incurred, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to participants or any other persons related to or resulting from participation in this competition.

9. Intellectual Property and Use of Images

- a) All entries remain the property of each Entrant.
- b) By entering the competition, you warrant to and for the benefit of the University that:
 - (i) your entry is your own original work, is not copied from any other person's work and does not infringe the copyright, trade mark or other intellectual property rights of any person; and
 - (ii) you have the consent of any identifiable person included in your entry to publish your entry, submit any photo to the Competition and for the University to publish your entry online or

any promotional materials.

- c) By entering the Competition, you consent and agree to the University using and reproducing your entry including any ideas, know how, trade secrets or suggestions in your entry for an unlimited period and without any payment to you, in any media now known or hereafter devised for the purpose of promoting the University, and you grant the University a license of all of your relevant intellectual property rights for this purpose. You acknowledge that your entry may be reproduced online, and/or in hard copy in the University promotional materials.
- d) Entrants agree that all images published on social media channels in accordance with the Format of Entry or any Submission Requirements may be moderated and displayed on the University's website and Facebook page and/or reposted on Instagram or other social media channels. The University will credit the photographer, and images taken remain the property of the copyright holder. Images and associated usernames will be made public to all.
- e) By entering the Competition and accepting these Terms, Entrants agree that their images can be made available online and broadcast via digital feeds or printed and adapted for any purpose by the University.

10. Jurisdiction

The Terms are governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales.

11. Privacy

- a) You acknowledge that the University may collect, store and use personal information in order to conduct the Competition and for related purposes referred to in paragraph 11(c) below, and may, for this purpose, disclose such information to third parties, including but not limited to agents, contractors, prize suppliers and, as required, to Australian regulatory authorities.
- b) By entering the Competition, you consent to the collection, storage, disclosure and use of your personal information for the purposes identified in these Terms and Conditions in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and all other applicable privacy legislation.
- c) By entering the Competition, you acknowledge and agree that the University may, for an indefinite period, unless otherwise advised by you in writing in accordance with paragraph (d), collect, store, disclose and use all personal information collected by the University about you in connection with this Competition for promotional, marketing, publicity, research and profiling purposes. All such personal information will only be used in accordance with the University's Privacy Policy which may be found here <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=107>:
- d) You should direct any request to access, update, correct or withdraw consent to the collection, storage, use or disclosure of your personal information to:

The Privacy Officer Rebecca Jarmin

Macquarie University, Sydney NSW 2052

Phone: (02) 9385 8369

Email: privacy@mq.edu.au

12. Contact details

Enquiries about this Competition should be directed to the Competition Contact Details specified in the Competition Details.

