OWN YOUR CAMPUS

Hack for a Sustainable Future

Overarching Theme: **AI for Sustainable Development**

41st IEC Hackathon

Organized by TEKSHETRA, iFocus Mission · https://ifocusmission.org/tekshetra

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Idea submission closes 28 November 2026 · https://41iec.org/hackathon

About Own Your Campus

Own Your Campus invites engineering students to take ownership of their campus—by noticing real problems around them and building innovative, technology-driven solutions that draw on engineering, creativity and AI. The aim is to turn students from passive campus users into active problem-solvers and innovators who leave their campus better than they found it.

Under the overarching theme of **AI for Sustainable Development**, teams choose one of the six campus themes below, define a concrete problem, and submit a practical, tech-enabled idea.

Themes at a glance

#	Theme	Focus
1	**Green Campus**	Water, energy, waste and resource efficiency
2	**Smart Campus**	Digital platforms, automation and intelligent infrastructure
3	**Secure Campus**	Safety, cybersecurity, access and emergency response
4	**Healthy Campus**	Physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing
5	**Innovative Campus**	AI, AR/VR, creative and experiential learning
6	**Incubation Campus**	Ideas to products, prototypes and student startups

How to choose your theme

Pick one theme for your team's idea submission—the one that best fits the campus problem you want to solve. When you submit on 41iec.org, select that theme from the theme dropdown. A reference template for the submission document is available on the hackathon page: https://41iec.org/hackathon. Idea submission closes on **28 November 2026**.

The six themes

The example problem areas below are idea starters only—they are not limits. Your team may address any realistic campus challenge that fits the chosen theme.

1. Green Campus

Focus: *Water conservation, renewable energy, waste management and resource efficiency through sustainable technologies.*

A **Green Campus** uses engineering and AI to cut waste, save water and energy, and make everyday campus operations more sustainable. Solutions in this theme help colleges measure, manage and reduce their environmental footprint—turning sustainability from a poster on the wall into something students can build and run.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- Rainwater harvesting, grey-water reuse and leak-detection for hostels and academic blocks
- Solar or other renewable energy monitoring for campus buildings and street lighting
- Smart segregation, composting or e-waste tracking for campus waste streams
- Energy-efficient classroom and lab scheduling that reduces idle power use
- Campus carbon or water footprint dashboards that drive measurable behaviour change

2. Smart Campus

Focus: *Campus learning and administration through digital platforms, automation and intelligent infrastructure.*

A Smart Campus makes daily life—learning, administration and facilities—smoother with digital platforms, automation and intelligent infrastructure. Ideas in this theme remove friction for students and staff: less queuing, fewer paper forms, clearer information, and systems that respond to how the campus actually works.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- Digital attendance, timetable or classroom booking that reduces clashes and empty rooms
- Chatbot or self-service portals for admissions, certificates, fee queries and hostel requests
- Smart parking, transport and shuttle tracking around campus
- IoT-based monitoring of classrooms, labs or common areas for comfort and utilisation
- Unified campus apps that bring notices, events and services into one place

3. Secure Campus

Focus: *Campus safety through cybersecurity, privacy-conscious systems, access management and emergency response.*

A Secure Campus protects people, data and spaces—without sacrificing privacy or trust. Solutions in this theme strengthen cybersecurity for campus systems, manage who can access what, and make emergency response faster and clearer when every minute counts.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- Privacy-aware visitor and hostel access systems (badges, QR, or face-based with clear consent)
- Phishing, password and cyber-hygiene tools tailored for students and faculty
- Emergency alert and muster apps for fire, medical or security incidents
- Lost-and-found, CCTV request or incident-reporting workflows with audit trails
- Secure sharing of academic records and ID credentials across campus services

4. Healthy Campus

Focus: *Physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing through technology-enabled campus wellness solutions.*

A Healthy Campus treats wellbeing as infrastructure: supporting physical fitness, mental health and emotional resilience with tools students will actually use. Ideas in this theme make help easier to find, habits easier to build, and campus health services more reachable—especially when stigma or distance get in the way.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- Anonymous or low-friction pathways to counselling and peer-support services
- Fitness, nutrition or sleep programmes tailored to hostel and exam-season rhythms
- Early wellness check-ins that flag burnout risk without shaming students
- Campus clinic booking, medicine reminders and health-record helpers
- Inclusive spaces and tools for students with disabilities or chronic conditions

5. Innovative Campus

Focus: *Reimagining learning through AI, AR/VR, creative technologies and experiential learning solutions.*

An Innovative Campus reimagines how students learn—using AI, AR/VR, creative technologies and hands-on experiences that go beyond the lecture hall. Solutions in this theme make difficult concepts clearer, practice more realistic, and learning more personalised and engaging for every branch of engineering.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- AI tutors or adaptive practice tools for core engineering subjects
- AR/VR labs for equipment that is scarce, expensive or unsafe to practice on repeatedly
- Project-based or peer-learning platforms that connect mentors and student teams
- Creative tools for design, simulation, storytelling or campus storytelling with media
- Experiential modules that bring industry problems into the classroom in real time

6. Incubation Campus

Focus: *Turning student ideas into products, prototypes and startups that address real-world challenges.*

An Incubation Campus is where student ideas leave the notebook and become prototypes, products and early startups. Solutions in this theme help innovators validate problems, build MVPs, find mentors and customers, and navigate the path from campus project to something the world can use.

Example problem areas / idea starters *(illustrative only—not a closed list)*

- Campus innovation portals that match student ideas with mentors, labs and seed support
- Tools for problem validation, customer discovery and lean MVP tracking
- Prototype showcases or demo days that connect teams with incubators and investors
- IP awareness, pitching and founder-skill modules built for engineering students
- Marketplaces that connect campus-built solutions with local colleges, NGOs or MSMEs

Observe. Innovate. Collaborate. Own Your Campus.

Questions? Email TEKSHETRA, iFocus Mission at tekshetra@ifocusmission.org.

Latest updates and the idea-submission reference template: https://41iec.org/hackathon