

A guide for schools & teachers

The UAE's student hackathon is back, with a new format.

Teams of 2–3 students from **Grades 1–12** build a coding project on a surprise theme and pitch it to industry judges. **Free for schools**, unlimited teams, with the Grand Finale at **Heriot-Watt University Dubai on Saturday 21 November 2026**.

NEW FOR SEASON 6



Online eliminators

Every registered team now competes online first, from school or home. The top teams in each division go through to the live Grand Finale.

- 10 Nov** Theme revealed at the launch webinar
- 10–15 Nov** 6 days to build, submit and record the pitch
- 17 Nov** Finalists announced



4 divisions, up from 3

Grades are split more finely, so every team competes against students of a similar age.

Cadet
Grades 1–2

Captain
Grades 3–5

Colonel
Grades 6–8

General **NEW**
Grades 9–12

New judging criteria

Five criteria, 20% each

Use of AI

Teamwork

Presentation

Code

User Interface

Register your teams by 10 November

Free entry · 2–3 students per team · No limit on teams per school

codebattle.tech

WHAT IS CODE BATTLE?

The UAE's inter-school coding competition, since 2021

Code Battle is created and run by iCodeJr. Teams get a theme, design and code a project around it, then pitch what they built. Students practise real-world problem-solving, teamwork and presenting while competing against peers of their own age.

5+

Seasons

100+

Schools engaged

1,000+

Students trained

500+

Projects built

CATEGORIES

Four divisions by grade

Cadet

Grades 1-2

CODING

Block-based

PLATFORM

Bloqi.ai

Captain

Grades 3-5

CODING

Block-based

PLATFORM

Bloqi.ai

Colonel

Grades 6-8

CODING

Block or text-based,
team's choice

PLATFORM

Bloqi.ai, or Python /
web dev on the iCodeJr
IDE

General

NEW

Grades 9-12

CODING

Text-based only

PLATFORM

Python / web dev on
the iCodeJr IDE

Bloqi.ai

Block-based coders

- Block-based coding platform for young learners
- Used by Cadet and Captain, and by Colonel teams who choose blocks
- Projects and pitch recordings are submitted inside the platform

iCodeJr IDE

Text-based coders

- Python or web development, in the browser
- Record-and-submit built in; locks automatically at the deadline
- Built-in AI assistant helps with debugging. It won't write code.

1 team = 1 login code

Each registered team receives one login code. Teams use it to sign in to Bloqi.ai or the iCodeJr IDE, for both the online eliminator and the Grand Finale.

Free

No fee for schools or
students

2-3

Students per team

Unlimited

Teams per school

English

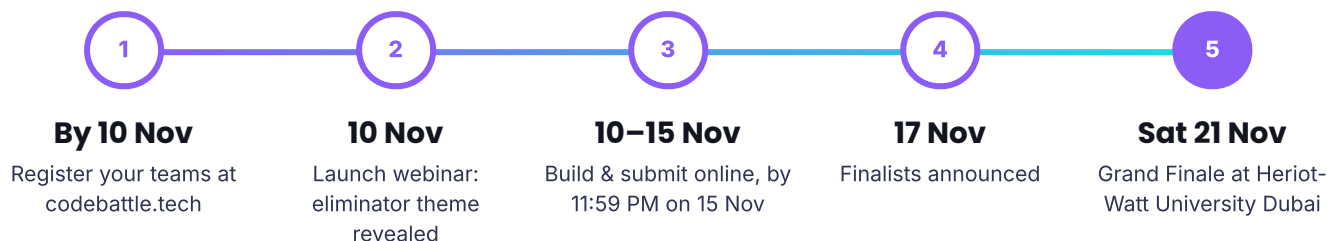
Language of the
competition

"Code Battle was much more than a coding competition. It encouraged students to communicate, collaborate, share ideas, and work together towards a common goal."

Aditi Yadav · Teacher, Delhi Private School Sharjah

KEY DATES · UAE TIME

From registration to the Grand Finale



Launch webinar time is shared with registered schools. Grand Finale timings are shared with finalists.

STAGE 1 · ONLINE

Online Eliminator

10–15 November · from school or home

- 1 Theme revealed** at the launch webinar on 10 November.
- 2 Six days to build** a project on the theme, using the team's platform.
- 3 Submit the project and record the pitch** by 11:59 PM on 15 November.
- 4 Top teams in each division** are announced on 17 November.

STAGE 2 · IN PERSON

Grand Finale

Saturday 21 November · Heriot-Watt University Dubai

- 1 A new theme is revealed on the day.** Finalists build a fresh project on site.
- 2 Submit the project and record the pitch**, same process as the eliminator.
- 3 Present live** to a panel of industry judges, followed by Q&A.
- 4 Awards ceremony** for all four divisions.

HOW TEAMS SUBMIT

START

Log in

Sign in to Bloqi.ai or the iCodeJr IDE with the team's login code.



STEP 1

Submit the project

Submit the finished project with its code.



STEP 2

Record the pitch

Record the team's pitch explaining the idea and how it was built.

The platforms lock automatically at the deadline. Anything not submitted by 11:59 PM on 15 November cannot be accepted, so encourage teams to submit early.

What we need from teachers

- ☐ **Register your teams** at codebattle.tech by 10 November.
- ☐ **Share each team's login code** with its students.
- ☐ **Make sure teams have a laptop** to build on during 10–15 November.
- ☐ **Join the launch webinar** on 10 November for the theme reveal.
- ☐ **Share the AI rules** with your students (page 4).
- ☐ **If your team reaches the final**, bring them to Heriot-Watt Dubai on 21 November.

NEW JUDGING CRITERIA

Five criteria, 20% each

Use of AI 20%

Creative, responsible use of AI within the rules

Teamwork 20%

How well the team works together

Presentation 20%

How clearly the team pitches its idea and build

Code 20%

The quality of the team's own code

User Interface 20%

How the project looks and how easy it is to use

AI RULES

AI can help create. It can't code.

✓ Allowed

Using AI to create sprites and visuals, develop the storyline, or shape the concept and idea. The iCodeJr IDE's AI assistant can help debug.

✗ Not allowed

Asking AI to write code. All code must be written by the students.

These rules apply in the online eliminator and at the Grand Finale.



Prizes & recognition

- **Trophies and medals** for the winners in every division
- **Certificates for all** participants
- **Additional 1st-place prizes** announced on the day of the Grand Finale



What finalists bring on 21 Nov

- **A laptop and its charger**, one per team at least
- **Their own food and drinks**. Meals are not provided at the venue.
- **The team's login code**

Questions? We're here to help.

Full details and registration: visit the website and click Register.

codebattle.tech

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