

Rules for the 2025 THS PhD Forecasting Hackathon

Eligibility and Participation:

1. The hackathon is open to all PhD delegates of ISF 2025 in Beijing.
2. Participants can compete individually or in teams of up to 4 members.
3. Please register at <https://forms.gle/YPVeyeg89XLZHp4eA>.

Data:

1. The organizers will provide a dataset containing historical data on tourist arrivals for two cities from January 2010 to April 2024.
2. Participants are allowed to use any publicly available data sources in addition to the provided dataset.

Submission:

1. Each participant or team must submit their forecasting results by 5pm local time on 29 June to THSIIF@outlook.com.
2. The original forecasts are in a spreadsheet, including monthly forecasts for both cities for the period from May 2024 to April 2025.
3. Other necessary supplementary materials. These include the data and explanation of any explanatory variables including dummy variables used. The raw data should be provided in a spreadsheet with clear explanation of the definition of each variable and the data source.
4. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Evaluation:

This competition will focus on point forecasts only. The mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) is used as the forecast error measure for this competition.

General Rules:

1. Participants must ensure that their submissions are their own original work and do not infringe on any intellectual property rights.
2. Any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification.
3. The organizers reserve the right to modify or update the rules as deemed necessary.

Code of Conduct:

1. All participants are expected to maintain a professional and respectful demeanour throughout the hackathon.
2. Any form of harassment, discrimination, or unethical behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification.
3. Please bring your own laptop to participate the hackathon.

Prizes:

1. First Place: USD 250 cash award and a bottle of wine
2. Second Place: USD 150 cash award and a bottle of wine
3. Third Place: USD 100 cash award and a bottle of wine

Contacts:

Should anyone have any queries about this competition, please do not hesitate to contact the organisers by email: THSIIF@outlook.com