



**National Federated  
Compute Services**  
NetworkPlus

**Spring Conference**  
**26 - 27 February 2026**

# Surveying accessibility of federated compute for junior researchers

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# Project team

## Project Lead



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King's College London

## Co-leads



Dr. Ahmed Al-Refaie  
Principal Research Fellow  
University College London



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# Project Aim:

To understand the barriers faced by junior researchers in the UK HPC  
landscape



# Project Objectives

**WP1: Technology**  
Assess technical readiness of current providers and identify the gaps to achieve a federated compute

**WP2: Community**  
Engage users via an exoplanet-themed hackathon and gather experience-based feedback.



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# Exploring Current Barriers:

- **Limited Availability**
- **Limited knowledge**



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# How do we collect data?

**Contacting the target audience directly through interviews and surveys**

# Collecting Data



## **Hackathon**

**A chance to engage with a diverse set of audience with different background in one place**

## **Interview with Stakeholders**

**Engage users and managers of UK HPC clusters to review the current infrastructure**

# ExoHack III: London

- Welcoming junior researchers to to collaborate on developing machine learning methods for characterising the atmospheres of planets beyond our solar system!
- A platform to engage with a diverse set of audience that we usually don't get the reach to in one single place



The poster features logos for UCL, e-c, PlanetAI, university of groningen, PLANETAI, and KING'S College LONDON at the top. The main title is 'ExoHack - Episode III London Edition'. Below it, the text reads: 'Join us in London for ExoHack, PlanetAI's Exoplanet Hackathon Series - a fun, in-person AI coding event to explore new worlds!'. The date and time are 'Date & Time March 21st 2026 From 9:30am to 6pm GMT'. The location is 'Location King's Building King's College London Strand, London, WC2R 2LS'. Below this, it says 'DETAILS & REGISTRATION HERE' with a QR code. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of the London skyline. On the right side, there is vertical text: 'eventbrite.co.uk/e/exoplanet-hackathon-series-episode-iii-london-edition-tickets-1980367400204'.

UCL University College London e-c PlanetAI university of groningen PLANETAI KING'S College LONDON

## ExoHack - Episode III London Edition

Join us in London for ExoHack, PlanetAI's Exoplanet Hackathon Series - a fun, in-person AI coding event to explore new worlds!

**Date & Time**  
March 21st 2026  
From 9:30am to 6pm GMT

**Location**  
King's Building  
King's College London  
Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

**DETAILS  
&  
REGISTRATION HERE**

eventbrite.co.uk/e/exoplanet-hackathon-series-episode-iii-london-edition-tickets-1980367400204

# ExoHack IV: Groningen

- Funder and organized by Kapteyn Computing Group, University of Groningen
- An opportunity to understand the perspective of non-UK researchers

**UCL** University College London

**university of groningen**

**PLANETAI**

**KING'S College LONDON**

## ExoHack - Episode IV Groningen Edition

Join us in Groningen for ExoHack, PlanetAI's Exoplanet Hackathon Series - a fun, in-person AI coding event to explore new worlds!

**Date & Time**  
April 16th - 17th 2026  
From 9:00am - 6:00pm CEST

**Location**  
Kapteyn Astronomical Institute,  
University of Groningen, NL

**DETAILS  
&  
REGISTRATION HERE**

eventbrite.co.uk/e/exoplanet-hackathon-series-episode-iv-groningen-edition-tickets-1980558805703



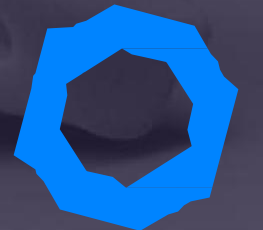
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# Intended Outcomes

**Consolidated final report on the national federation roadmap specifically focused:**

- **Current HPC gaps to reach a federated compute system**
- **User stories from HPC users and providers**

***"A society grows great when people  
plant trees whose shade they know they  
shall never sit in"***



**Thank You**

