

PRIVACY NOTICE

Access Youth Tech Forge 2026



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We care about your privacy

Africa Fintech Foundry is the innovation arm of Access Bank Plc, a Nigerian multinational commercial bank licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria. This Privacy Notice explains what information we collect, how we collect it, and how we share, use and protect it when you apply to or take part in Access Youth Tech Forge 2026 (the "Programme").

It applies to the Programme application portal and to every stage of the Programme, including the virtual build phase and Demo Day. It supplements the Access Bank Privacy Policy, which continues to apply; where the two differ in respect of the Programme, this Notice prevails.

Access Bank Plc is the data controller for the personal data described in this Notice. We comply with the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 and other relevant legislation.



The information we collect

We collect only the information we need to run the Programme. This is not a banking service, and we do not ask for your Bank Verification Number, account details, mother's maiden name or any other information required to open a bank account.

What we collect from you falls into four groups.



Identity and contact information:

your name, email address, phone number, date of birth, city and country of residence.



Professional information:

your organisation, role, technical skills, and any GitHub, LinkedIn, portfolio or other links you choose to share.



Team information:

the names, email addresses, roles and skills of the people you apply with.



Submission information:

your chosen theme, your idea description, your answers to the screening questions, and any code, designs, documents or presentations you submit during the Programme.

Where you attend Demo Day, we may also record photographs and video footage of the event, and we collect the registration details needed to admit you to the building. Where your team is selected for the build phase, we hold records of your activity in the sandbox environment and in Programme communication channels.

We may also collect information about the device you use, including your IP address, operating system and browser type, for system administration and security purposes. This is statistical data about how the portal is used and does not identify you individually.



How we collect your information

Information we hold comes directly from you, through the application form, the verification of your email address, your submissions during the build phase, and your communication with the organising team. Some comes from your team lead, where they have applied on behalf of a team. A small amount is collected automatically when you browse the portal, as described above.



Basis for processing your information

We process your personal data on the following bases.



To enter into and perform the participation agreement between you and Access Bank, which is the main basis for processing application and Programme data.



For the legitimate interest of Access Bank in running, evaluating and improving its innovation programmes.



To comply with our legal and regulatory obligations.



And on the basis of your consent, where you have given it, for optional purposes such as publicity and future programme updates.



How we use your information

We use the information we collect to verify that you are eligible to take part, to assess your application against the published criteria, and to communicate with you about your application and the Programme. We use it to organise and deliver the build phase and Demo Day, to provide access to the sandbox environment, and to arrange the payment of prizes to winning teams.

We also use it in aggregated form to report on Programme outcomes and to understand the technology landscape we operate in. Where we publish such reporting, it does not identify individuals.

Where you have given the relevant optional consent, we use your name, team name, likeness and a description of your submission in Programme publicity, and we send you information about future Access Bank and Africa Fintech Foundry programmes. You may withdraw either consent at any time, and doing so does not affect your application or your standing in the Programme.

We do not sell your personal data, and we do not use it for any purpose unconnected with the Programme.



Who we share your information with

We share your information with the judges and mentors assessing and supporting your team, with the relevant business units within Access Bank involved in delivering the Programme, and with the service providers who host the portal and the sandbox environment or support the delivery of Demo Day. Where required, we share it with our professional advisers or with regulators. Judges, mentors and service providers are bound by confidentiality and data protection obligations and receive only the information they need for their role. Where we engage a third party to process personal data on our behalf, we put a written data processing agreement in place.



Cross-border transfer

The Programme is open to applicants across Africa, and some of the service providers we use to host the portal, deliver communications or run the sandbox environment operate outside Nigeria. Where your personal data is transferred outside Nigeria, we take appropriate measures to ensure it remains protected to the standard required by the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023, including contractual safeguards with the receiving party.



Security of your information

Safeguarding your personal information is a priority. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with applicable laws, to protect your information from unauthorised access and use, accidental or unlawful alteration and destruction, and other unlawful or unauthorised forms of processing.

Access to Programme data is limited to those who need it for their role. Where we engage other organisations to provide services, we require them to protect the confidentiality of the information they receive and to meet appropriate compliance standards. While we take security seriously, no system can be guaranteed secure against every threat, and we therefore also limit what we collect and how long we keep it.



How long we keep your information

We keep application and Programme data for twenty-four months after the Programme concludes, after which it is deleted or anonymised. Records required for financial, audit or legal purposes are kept for the period required by law. Where you have consented to receive information about future programmes, we keep your contact details until you withdraw that consent.



Applicants under 18

The Programme is open to applicants from the age of 17. Where an applicant is under 18, we require the consent of a parent or legal guardian before processing their personal data, and we may ask for this in writing. We do not knowingly collect personal data from anyone under 17.



Your rights

Under the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 you have the following rights in relation to your personal data.



The right to be informed about how your data is used, which this Notice is intended to provide.



The right of access to the personal data we hold about you and information about how we process it.



The right to rectification, so that inaccurate, outdated or incomplete data can be corrected.



The right to erasure, where there is no compelling legal or regulatory reason for us to continue holding your data.



The right to restrict processing, or to withdraw a consent you have given, at any time.



The right to data portability, so that your data can be moved or copied to another provider where practicable.



The right to object to our processing of your data in certain circumstances.

To exercise any of these rights, write to us at africafintech@accessbankplc.com or to the Access Bank privacy team at privacy@accessbankplc.com. Access Bank also provides a Data Subject Access Request form for this purpose.



Remedies and timeframes

We are committed to addressing any violation of your data protection rights promptly. On receiving a complaint or becoming aware of a breach, we will acknowledge it within 72 hours and aim to resolve it fully within one month. Where more time is needed because of complexity, we will tell you within that first month and explain why. You are also free to report the matter to the Nigeria Data Protection Commission or to seek other legal remedies.



Cookies

A cookie is a small file placed on your device. On the Programme portal, cookies store your session and the progress of your application so that you can return to it, and help us analyse how the portal is used. Most browsers accept cookies automatically, and you can change your browser settings to disable them, though this may prevent parts of the portal from working as intended, including the ability to save and resume an application.



Automated decision-making

Applications are assessed by people, not by automated decision-making. We may use automated tools to check applications for completeness, eligibility and duplicates, but no application is accepted or rejected on an automated basis alone. Where any automated process significantly affects you, you have the right to request human intervention, to express your point of view and to contest the decision.



Changes to this Notice

We may update this Notice where the Programme changes or where required for legal or regulatory reasons. The date at the top of this Notice shows when it was last updated, and material changes will be notified to applicants by email.



Contact us



For questions about this Notice or about how your information is handled in connection with the Programme, contact africafintech@accessbankplc.com. For wider data protection enquiries, contact the Access Bank privacy team at privacy@accessbankplc.com.