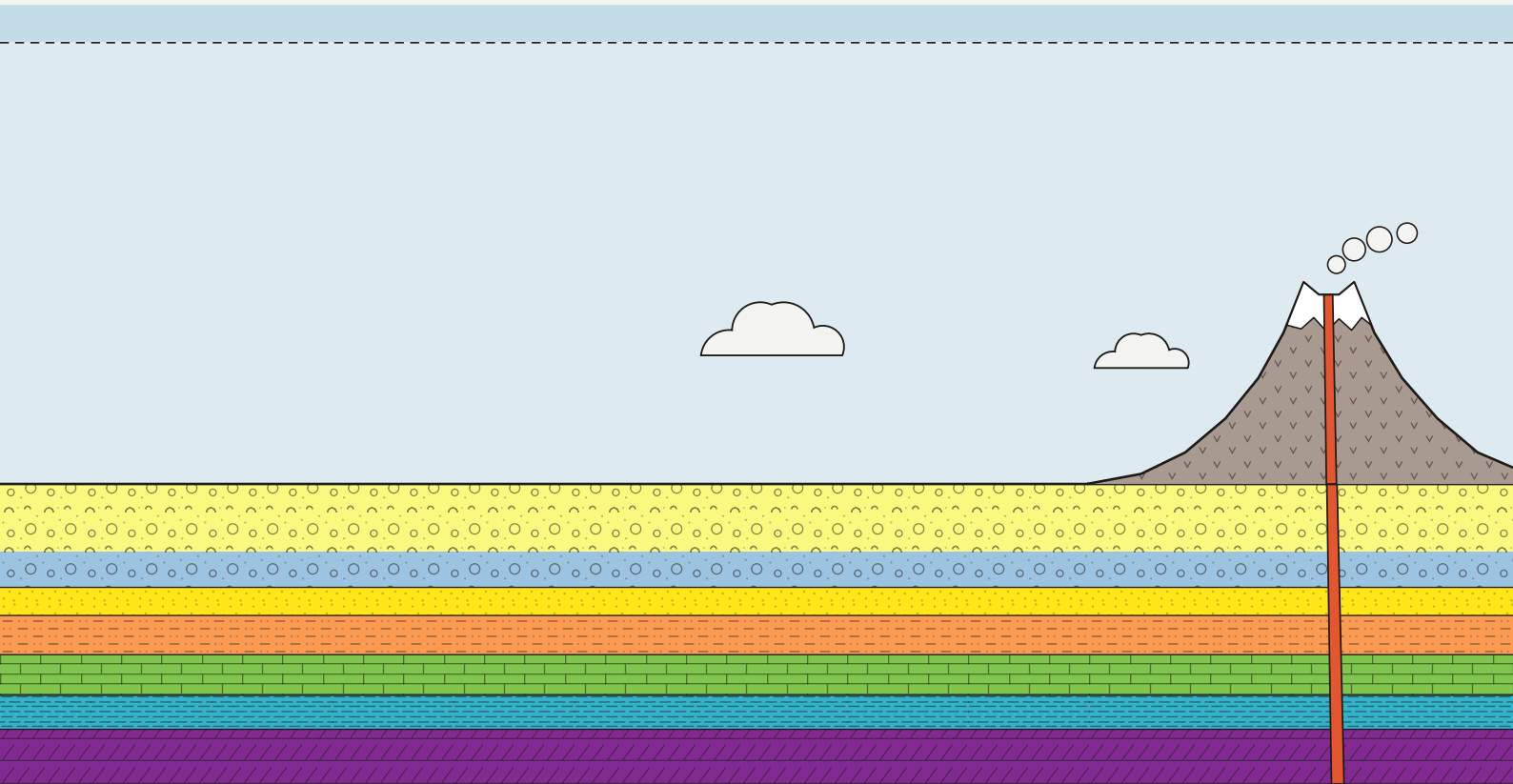
International Earth Science Competition

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What is IESC?

Vision, Mission, and Values

Earth science is the study of the planet we live on: its air, water, life, soils and rocks, and the processes that connect them, from the weather in the atmosphere to the slow convection of the mantle. It explains why it rains, where groundwater comes from, why some volcanoes explode while others flow, how earthquakes start and how the climate has changed over Earth's history. Our society urgently needs talented earth scientists, researchers, and innovators to address global challenges including climate change, water security, natural hazards, sustainable use of soils and raw materials, and the protection of ecosystems.

The International Earth Science Competition offers students a platform to challenge their analytical and problem-solving skills, explore diverse earth science concepts, and delve deeper into this fascinating discipline beyond the standard school curriculum. We believe that blending education with friendly competition can inspire students to develop a lasting passion for earth science, potentially leading to fulfilling careers in research, industry, education, or scientific innovation.

IESC is accessible to all students from all countries. All you need is a pen, paper, and an internet connection to join!

What makes IESC unique?

While competition is part of IESC, our core mission is to foster genuine engagement with earth science, sparking curiosity and encouraging further exploration in this and related scientific fields. IESC is a learning journey, enabled by diverse problem formats that enhance a student's understanding through practical application.

- **Internationality**: From the very first round, IESC is a truly global event. All participants tackle the same challenges, ensuring fair assessment and fostering international connections.
- **Digital Accessibility**: We utilize the power of the internet to open participation to students everywhere, regardless of geographic location or school affiliation. While teacher guidance is beneficial, motivated individuals can participate independently from anywhere.
- **Diverse Earth Science Topics**: IESC embraces the full scope of earth science. The competition covers nine areas, from the air down to the mantle: atmosphere and weather, climate, biosphere and ecology, soils, water, oceans and ice, rocks, minerals and Earth history, earthquakes and Earth's interior, volcanoes, and plate tectonics.
- **Real-World Research**: IESC problems typically incorporate concepts from recently published research papers. This unique feature provides many participants with their first exposure to actual earth science research and current scientific discoveries.

- **Scaling Difficulty Levels**: Our problems are designed to engage both experienced earth science enthusiasts and those beginning to explore the subject beyond the classroom.
- **Online Tools for Educators**: A dedicated teacher interface allows for streamlined management of student submissions, results tracking, and certificate access.
- **Local Communities & Ambassadors**: Our Ambassador Program empowers motivated students to inspire peers, organize local events, and build vibrant communities centered around shared interests in earth science.

Who can participate?

Current high school and university students from all grades and countries are invited to participate. We have three age categories:

Junior	10th Grade and below (and < 16 years of age)
Youth	11th to 13th Grade (and < 19 years of age)
Senior	1st Year College/University and higher (or $\geq$ 19 years of age)

Students from all age categories will receive the same problems in all rounds. However, the number of problems required to advance differ based on your age group. To succeed, you'll need curiosity, analytical thinking, mathematical skills, and creativity. A reliable internet connection is necessary for participation and submission.

My age or grade changes after the submission deadline. Which group do I belong to?

Your grade/age on the day of the Qualification Round submission deadline determines your age group for the entire competition duration.

Do I have to be a student to participate?

Yes, participation is open to students currently enrolled in high school, college, or university. If you are in a transitional period (e.g., gap year between high school and university) and intend to begin university studies soon, you are also welcome to participate.

Why participate?

The International Earth Science Competition is foremost an educational initiative, enabling students to develop and demonstrate their analytical skills across a wide range of earth science challenges. To foster enthusiasm and friendly competition, participants also receive certificates and have the opportunity to earn awards, cash prizes, and international recognition.

Every participant receives a certificate acknowledging their effort. In the Final Round, exceptional performance is recognized with Bronze, Silver, or Gold Honours. The top students in each age category receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes, while National Awards are presented to the highest-scoring participants from each country.

Senior Category		
1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

Youth Category		
1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

Junior Category		
1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

We further honour the following achievements:

Additional Honours

Special Partner Awards	Special awards worth over 1,400 USD from our partners
National Awards	Special National Award Certificate
All Finalists	Participation Certificate with Bronze, Silver, or Gold Honour
All Participants	Official Participation Certificate

Who will receive National Awards?

Reflecting IESC's global outlook, we recognize the top three participants from each country who achieve at least 50% of the total points in the Final Round. These students receive a National Award certificate, and a list of top national performers will be published on our website.

Awards for Ambassadors

Each year, we recognize the dedication and impact of our most active ambassadors with special awards:

- **Ambassador Award for Most Overall Participants**: Awarded to the ambassador who successfully encouraged the highest number of students to join IESC.
- **Ambassador Award for Most Finalists**: Awarded to the ambassador whose guidance helped the most students reach the Final Round.
- **Ambassador Award for Excellent Encouragement**: Presented to ambassadors who demonstrate outstanding commitment within their communities.

Awards for Schools

In recognition of the vital role educators and institutions play in nurturing talent in earth science, IESC presents three types of school awards (non-monetary):

- **School Award for Most Participants**: Awarded to the school with the highest number of registered participants.
- **School Award for Most Finalists**: Awarded to the school with the most participants qualifying for the Final Round.
- **School Awards for Excellence**: Presented to schools that demonstrate strong overall student performance.

How do schools participate to win these awards?

Schools automatically participate when students register using the school's name. Please ensure all students enter the school name accurately and consistently. We also encourage teachers from participating schools to register on our educator platform.

Further Achievements

Engaging in international competitions like IESC contributes to personal growth and strengthens your academic profile.

Global Network: Successful participants and winners join the international IESC network: a community of talented, motivated students from around the world.

Opportunities: The IESC team curates and shares information about relevant international and regional opportunities, including internships, scholarships, research programs, and science events.

Regional Meetups & Events: The IESC team will organize meetups, workshops, and study sessions in various regions.

Do I receive a hard copy of the certificate(s)?

Hard copies of certificates will be mailed to all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize winners. All other participants will receive high-quality digital certificates (PDF) featuring permanent verification IDs, accessible via: `https://intesc.org/verify`

Process and Rounds

The International Earth Science Competition is divided into three rounds: the Qualification Round, Pre-Final Round, and Final Round. Each round features unique challenges that test and deepen your understanding of earth science and problem-solving.

Qualification Round

The Qualification Round is the starting point of the competition. It includes five earth science problems (labeled A – E), designed to be accessible whilst spanning a range of earth science topics. Each problem is worth 5 points.

To qualify for the Pre-Final Round, participants must meet the following minimum scores:

12 points	14 points	17 points
Junior	Youth	Senior

All participants receive participation certificates. There are no fees or registration costs to participate in the Qualification Round.

Qualification Round Deadline

The submission deadline for the Qualification Round is **Sunday, 24 January 2027**, 23:59 UTC+0. This deadline is strictly enforced, so please plan accordingly.

Solution and Submission Information

Participants must prepare a solution document with written explanations for **all problems**. Participants may submit their solution document in one of two formats:

- Digitally typed solutions (recommended), using LaTeX or a standard word processor.
- Clear scans or photos of handwritten work. Multiple pages must be combined into one PDF.

It is essential that participants show their work clearly for all problems. Points are awarded for demonstrating correct reasoning and solution steps, even if the final answer is incorrect.

When you submit your solution, a participant account will be created automatically. You can access your account and submission using the credentials you set during the submission process: https://intesc.org/login

Announcement of Results

Qualification Round results will be announced on Monday, 8 February 2027. Participants will be notified via email and through their online participant accounts at: https://intesc.org/login

Pre-Final Round

Participants who successfully complete the Qualification Round are invited to the Pre-Final Round, which features more challenging and engaging problems.

This round is a supervised 60-minute exam consisting of three problems, one of which requires engagement with a real-world research paper:

- **2 Calculation Problems** (5 points each): Testing problem-solving skills and requiring mathematical calculations on core earth science concepts.
- **1 Research Problem** (10 points): Involving engagement with a short scientific research paper, released in advance, on current research topics.

The maximum score is 20 points. To qualify for the Final Round, you must score at least 7/9/11 points (Junior/Youth/Senior).

Registration and Costs

Successful Qualification Round participants can register for the Pre-Final Round via their participant account (https://intesc.org/login). We ask participants to contribute a registration cost of 12 EURfor the Pre-Final Round to help sustain IESC at an international level. Financial aid options are available for students facing economic hardship.

Pre-Final Round Registration Deadline

The registration deadline for the Pre-Final round is Tuesday, 2 March 2027.

Qualified and registered participants will receive the research paper via their online account on Friday, 5 March 2027 to prepare. The supervised 60-minute exam can then be taken at any time from Sunday, 7 March 2027 until Tuesday, 9 March 2027 (23:59 UTC+0), supervised by a teacher (recommended) or via our online supervision system.

Announcement of Results

Pre-Final Round results will be announced on Monday, 22 March 2027 via email and the participant portal.

Can I participate only in the Qualification Round?

Yes, you can participate solely in the Qualification Round and receive your certificate. However, you would not proceed to the subsequent rounds or be eligible for finalist awards.

Final Round

Participants who excel in the Pre-Final Round qualify for the Final Round: a fast-paced online exam consisting of 30 short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

The exam covers a range of earth science topics, drawing from concepts explored in the Qualification and Pre-Final Rounds. Questions are shown one by one, with 1 to 2 minutes for each, and you cannot go back to a previous question. A correct answer earns 1 to 2 points, and there is no penalty for incorrect answers.

Final rankings, awards, and prizes are primarily determined by the Final Round score. In case of ties, scores from the Pre-Final (and potentially Qualification) Round will be used as tie-breakers.

Final Round Date

All Final Round exams will take place on Tuesday, 6 April 2027.

Final Round Supervision

Finalists take the 40-minute exam through a secure online portal: `https://intesc.org/exam`. The exam is supervised by IESC's online supervision system, which needs a computer, laptop or phone with a webcam, a second phone as supervision camera, and a valid ID. Teacher supervision is not available for the Final Round.

Result Announcement

The final results of the competition, including winners and honors, will be announced on Monday, 12 April 2027.

Timetable and Deadlines

Please find the key dates for IESC below. Note that all deadlines are at 23:59 UTC+0.

Qualification Round

Sunday, 24 January 2027	Submission Deadline
Monday, 8 February 2027	Announcement of Results

Pre-Final Round

Tuesday, 2 March 2027	Registration Deadline
Friday, 5 March 2027	Release of Research Paper
Tuesday, 9 March 2027	Submission Deadline
Monday, 22 March 2027	Announcement of Results

Final Round

Tuesday, 6 April 2027	Day of the Final Round Exam
Monday, 12 April 2027	Announcement of Results

Information for Teachers

Teachers, schools, and parents are encouraged to share IESC as an extracurricular learning opportunity for students interested in earth science and scientific problem-solving. We provide dedicated tools and resources to help teachers integrate the competition into classroom settings.

Special School Awards

We recognize the vital role of schools and educators by offering special awards to institutions with high participation rates and exceptional student performance throughout the competition. (See Section 3.2 for details.)

Teacher Login and Resources

We invite teachers to register for access to the dedicated IESC Teacher Portal (`https://intesc.org/teacher-login`). This platform provides tools to:

- Track students' progress, view results, and download certificates.
- Oversee the supervision process for Final Round participants.
- Coordinate group registration payments for the Pre-Final Round, if needed.

Register as a teacher here: `https://intesc.org/teacher-registration`

If you are interested in establishing an IESC or earth science club at your school, integrating IESC problems into your curriculum, or need promotional materials, please visit our website or contact us.

Ambassador Program

As a global competition, IESC depends on passionate ambassadors to reach students across schools, cities, and countries. Ambassadors act as local representatives of IESC, promoting the competition, helping organize activities, and fostering a community centered around earth science.

Requirements

Applicants must be at least 14 years old, have a genuine interest in earth science, and be willing to invest time in promoting IESC within their community. Ambassador certificates are awarded to those who actively contribute.

Responsibilities and Benefits

Ambassadors take on meaningful tasks, including:

- Encouraging students and youth to participate in IESC.
- Informing schools, science clubs, and local organizations about the competition.
- Optionally organizing local events, workshops, or study groups.
- Serving as a local point of contact and ambassador of IESC.

Benefits include operating under the IESC name, gaining valuable organizational experience, and making a tangible impact. Official ambassadors receive access to a personal management page and an optional IESC email address.

Possible ambassador activities include:

- Using social media to share IESC updates and earth science content.
- Presenting IESC to teachers, school administrators, or student clubs.
- Starting or supporting after-school earth science clubs.
- Organizing info sessions or problem-solving practice groups.

Special Awards for Ambassadors

Each year, we recognize outstanding ambassadors for their dedication and impact. (See Section 3.1 for details.)

Application Process

To become an official IESC Ambassador, applicants must complete the online application form. The selection process consists of two stages:

1. Submit a CV or résumé along with a brief statement outlining motivation and plans for promoting IESC.
2. Complete a short problem sheet and submit a motivational video.

Apply here: https://intesc.org/application

Further Information

Submission Status Page

All registered participants receive access to a personal online account. Use this portal to manage your submissions, check your results, view performance reports, and download your certificates.

Access your account here: https://intesc.org/status

Further Materials and Documents

Visit our official website for additional resources that can be used to promote the International Earth Science Competition:

- Information Flyers (like this one)
- IESC Posters (Digital/Printable)
- Official IESC Logos and Brand Assets

Newsletter and Notifications

Subscribe to IESC notifications on our website to stay updated on competition deadlines, upcoming events, relevant earth science opportunities, and other important announcements.

Social Media Page

Follow us on social media for the latest updates, announcements, and engaging content related to IESC and earth science education.

Links to all our social media channels are on our website: https://intesc.org

Contact and Questions

If you have questions, feedback, or experience any issues related to IESC, please first consult our online FAQ section or contact your regional IESC ambassador.

You can also reach out to the central IESC team via email: info@intesc.org

Organizers and Partners

The International Earth Science Competition is an independent initiative led by a dedicated team committed to advancing earth science education. Meet the full team online: https://intesc.org/team

The main coordinators for this year's competition are:

- Subject Coordinator: Hamidur Rahman, coordinator@intesc.org

- Program Coordinator: Fabian Schneider, program@intesc.org
- Technical Coordinator: Dr. Rami Aly, coordinator@intesc.org



We extend our sincere thanks to all coordinators, volunteers, and partners whose dedication makes the International Earth Science Competition possible for students around the world.