IBioC

Edition 2027

International Biology Competition

Vision & Mission



Solve the puzzles of life.

An online biology competition in three rounds for school and university students worldwide.



1 Vision and Mission

Biology is the science of life, from the molecules inside a single cell to the ecosystems that cover the planet. It explains how an oak lifts water thirty metres without a pump, why a population of finches changes after a drought, and how a peatland can store more carbon than a forest. Medicine, agriculture, conservation and the response to a changing climate all depend on it. Our society needs curious, careful thinkers who can read evidence and work out what it means.

The International Biology Competition offers students a platform to challenge their analytical and problem-solving skills, to explore the full breadth of biology and to go beyond the standard school curriculum. We believe that combining education with friendly competition can spark a lasting passion for the life sciences, and perhaps lead to a career in research, medicine, conservation, education or industry.

IBioC is open to students from all countries, regardless of their background, school or institution. All you need is a pen, paper and an internet connection.

2 What makes IBioC unique?

Competition is part of IBioC, but our core mission is genuine engagement with biology: less memorising, more working things out. IBioC is a learning journey, built on problem formats that deepen understanding through application. Key aspects that distinguish IBioC include:

- **Internationality:** From the very first round, IBioC is a global event. All participants tackle the same problems, which ensures a fair assessment and connects students across borders.
- **Digital Accessibility:** All rounds take place online, so students can take part wherever they live and whatever school they attend. Guidance from a teacher is welcome, but motivated students can also take part on their own initiative.
- **Problems Built on Real Data:** Enzyme rates, bird-ringing records, genetic crosses and field counts: participants receive measurements and decide what they mean. School biology is enough to start; curiosity does the rest.
- **From Molecules to the Whole Planet:** The problems cover five areas of biology: plants and fungi; cells, molecules and microbes; human and animal physiology; genetics, evolution and behaviour; and ecology and conservation.

- **Real-World Research:** In the Semi-Final Round, participants prepare a recent biology research paper and then solve a problem on it in the exam. For many, it is the first time they read real research before university.
- **Scaling Difficulty Levels:** The problems engage both experienced biology enthusiasts and students who are just beginning to explore the subject beyond the classroom, from approachable questions to challenges that require careful analytical thinking.
- **Online Tools for Educators:** Teachers get a dedicated account to follow their students' results and documents, cover registration costs for a group and supervise exams.
- **Local Communities and Ambassadors:** Our Ambassador Program empowers motivated students to inspire their peers, organise local activities and build communities around a shared interest in biology.