

IEOx

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

IEOx Essay Challenge

2026/27

Annual theme: Climate Economics

THEME

Climate Economics

DEADLINE

Dec 15, 2026, 23:59 UTC

CONTACT

essaychallenge@ieo-official.org

IEOx Essay Challenge 2026/27

Specific Regulations

1 Introduction

The International Economics Olympiad, in its dedication to enhancing skills in economics, finance, and business, employs a strategic blend of contemporary, historical, and practical resources.

As part of this commitment, the IEOx Essay Challenge (EsC) is introduced to provide young minds across the globe with an exceptional chance to transform their academic endeavors into compelling and impactful research results.

Beyond being a mere avenue for submissions, the EsC seeks to create an inclusive platform that encourages the exchange of ideas among high school participants who exhibit analytical and critical thinking skills, representing diverse cultural backgrounds.

2 Qualification

All participants (authors) should be junior (middle) or senior high (secondary) school students and aged below 20 by June 30, 2027.

3 Annual theme

The annual theme for the IEOx EsC invites participants to delve into a diverse array of subjects interwoven with economics, business, and finance. Whether unraveling the complexities of economic systems, analyzing intriguing business scenarios, or advocating for heightened financial awareness, this platform offers participants from across the globe the opportunity to illuminate various facets of the economic world.

In the EsC, your creativity knows no bounds, and your unique perspective on the crossroads of knowledge will be shared with the world!

Annual theme for 2026/27: climate economics

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol, the EsC has officially designated climate economics as the mandatory theme for the 2026/27 cycle.

Under this directive, all submissions exploring climate economics, carbon market mechanisms, sustainable finance, or environmental policy will automatically qualify for this special category.

This theme governs this annual round, where the top 40 papers will be selected as preliminary winners, from which the top 5 will be further selected to be featured during a dedicated online seminar.

Along with this annual highlight, these top 5 papers will be awarded the Kyoto Protocol 30th Anniversary Special Award.

4 Rules

4.1 An individual, whether participating in this challenge independently or as part of a group, may submit only one article per year. Submissions can be either individual-based or group-based, with group submissions limited to a maximum of 3 persons.

4.2 The Essay Challenge only accepts submissions in English. A submission must include an abstract and body text.

4.3 Word count limits: 250–400 words in the abstract; 1,500–2,000 in the body text.

4.4 All submissions should be titled.

4.5 A submitted file should be in .docx or .odt format and named with the serial number and the title of the submission.

4.6 Submissions disclosing author information (e.g., names, schools, etc.) will be disqualified.

4.7 No duplicate submission is allowed. Exceptions apply to significantly edited formerly submitted works and should be clearly declared in the registration form.

4.8 Plagiarism, impersonation, or unauthorized third-party generation is strictly prohibited. The Challenge reserves the right to disqualify a submission, cancel an award, or take further action provided a submission is proven to have involved any of the aforementioned circumstances. Authors should take full legal liability for infringement of copyright or intellectual property.

5 Judging criteria

The criteria consist of (1) consistency to the theme, (2) perspective creativity, (3) complete narration, (4) contextual analysis, (5) formatting, and (6) readability.

The Essay Challenge reserves the right to determine whether to accept a submission in light of the judging criteria.

6 Formatting (6.2–6.6 mandatory)

Item	Rules and examples
6.1 Fonts	Times New Roman, Arial, or Helvetica
6.2 Title	14 pt, bold, center alignment
6.3 Subtitles	12 pt, bold, justified alignment
6.4 Table or figure captions	12 pt, bold, center alignment
6.5 Abstract and body text	12 pt, regular (not bold), justified alignment
6.6 Citation	APA format

7 Registration and submission

Registration and submission is only available on the official website.

8 Critical dates (Note: all times are UTC)

- **September 15, 2026:** Start of registration and submission
- **December 15, 2026 (23:59 UTC):** End of registration
- **December 15, 2026 (23:59 UTC):** End of submission
- **December 25–31, 2026:** Announcement of the top 40 papers
- **January 31, 2027:** Announcement of the top 5 papers for the Kyoto Protocol 30th Anniversary Special Awards
- **Tuesday, February 16, 2027:** Online seminar

9 Must-knows for participation

- Understand the Specific Regulations and start researching.
- Visit the registration system to fill in author details. After your registration is confirmed, a confirmation email will be sent with a link to upload your article. Submissions are accepted until Tuesday, December 15, 2026, 23:59 (UTC).
- If your submission is announced as a selected excellent article or nominated for the Kyoto Protocol Special Award, you will be invited to the online seminar on **Tuesday, February 16, 2027**, to present your research in front of a global audience.
- Selected submissions will be published on the official website.

10 Host

The Essay Challenge is hosted by the International Economics Olympiad Community (IEOx).

Contact the team via the official email at: essaychallenge@ieo-official.org.