



15th International Geography Olympiad
Quebec City, Canada

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the 2018 iGeo Organizing Committee, we are pleased to invite your country to send a team to the 15th International Geography Olympiad being held in Quebec City, Canada, from July 31 to August 6, 2018 under the auspices of the International Geography Union Olympiad Task Force and in cooperation with the Canadian Association of Geographers and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Please complete the online application form and submit it by **January 15, 2018**. Please see our website for further information and application forms: igeo2018.ulaval.ca.

The Olympiad will be held on the campus of Université Laval, North America's second oldest university situated in the capital of the province of Quebec. Field excursions in human and physical geography will take place in the surrounding region. The iGeo gold medal presentation will take place in the Quebec City Conference Centre during the opening ceremony of the 2018 International Geography Union-Canadian Association of Geographers meeting.

As you know, the iGeo is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the geographical knowledge and skills of the best students representing your country, to reward the most prominent young geographers of the world, and to promote professional contacts within the worldwide geographical education community. Each team will be composed of four students that have been selected through a national geography competition and are aged between 16 and 19 years old inclusively on June 30, 2018. It should be noted that students may not participate more than twice. They will be accompanied by two adult team leaders who are involved in geographical education in their country, and who can write and speak English. One of the team leaders must be fluent in English and experienced in the evaluation of assignments to mark students' written answers to the tests. For more details, please see the Statutes at www.geoolympiad.org.

Countries are responsible for their own travel, visas and insurance. In addition, a fee of **\$500 (Canadian dollars)** per person (i.e., for each student and for each team leader) is payable as a contribution to defray local expenses. The deadline for the fee payment is May 14, 2018. Details on making the payment will be given to teams after their applications have been approved.

iGeo 2018 consists of three academic challenges over the course of a week: a written response test, a fieldwork exercise, and a multimedia test. Since English is the official language of the iGeo, all tasks and related materials are presented in English, and students will be required to write their responses in English. Accommodation will be made for students who are not schooled in English (i.e., additional time allotment for the tests and use of approved bilingual dictionaries). For more information about the tests, please see the Guidelines for Tests at www.geoolympiad.org

In addition to the above-mentioned tests, the iGeo program includes a poster presentation session and a Canadian cultural function. Details of these events will be sent to participating countries. During the iGeo we will also offer excursions to places of great interest – Old Quebec City, Jacques Cartier National Park, and Forêt Montmorency. A draft outline of the program is available online.

Following the iGeo, an optional 5-day post-iGeo excursion is being planned to the Saguenay Fjord, the Marine Environment Discovery Center, whale watching at Tadoussac, the Kamouraska dikelands, and the fossil forest at Montmagny. More information on the post-iGeo fieldtrip will be available online at a later date.

A formal written invitation to the Olympiad (to facilitate the visa application process) will be provided to participating countries. Please check the visa requirements and deadlines for your specific country. Countries applying for the iGeo must complete the online application form and submit it by **January 15, 2018**.

Countries which participated in the 2016 or 2017 iGeos will automatically be accepted. Decisions on the acceptance of other teams will be made by January 31, 2018. Queries about the 2018 iGeo should be emailed to igeo2018@ulaval.ca. General queries about eligibility should be sent to the Task Force Co-Chair, Sue Lomas at sueguides@hotmail.co.uk. If you are no longer involved with the organization of your country's iGeo, please forward this message to the appropriate individual and inform Su-Min Shen (smshe@ntnu.edu.tw) in regard to the change of contact information. For more details on the iGeo please also refer to the official website at: www.geoolympiad.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to Canada in 2018,

2018 iGeo Organizing Committee,
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