

15th International Geography Olympiad



Québec City, Canada

July 31 - August 6, 2018

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Part 1:
Things to know before you leave home!**

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1. Welcome to Canada iGeo-2018

We are looking forward to hosting iGeo-2018 participants in Québec City, one of the most historic and beautiful cities in North America. This is a region with fascinating natural and cultural landscapes and so much for geographers to appreciate!

The oldest part of the city (Vieux-Québec) dates back to 1608, and its narrow cobblestone streets are filled with architectural, shopping, and culinary treasures. The walls encircling the old city are the only remaining fortified city walls left on the continent, north of Mexico. The Historic District of Old Québec is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city and province of Québec retain and celebrate the French culture of their origins, and French is the official language of the province, however English is widely-spoken and understood in Québec City.

The Olympiad is held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and organized by the IGU Olympiad Task Force. Local organizers are Université Laval, Canadian Association of Geographers, and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

2. Venue information

The venue of the 15th International Geography Olympiad is Université Laval, one of Canada's oldest universities, and the first French language university in North America. Accommodations, meals, and exams for iGeo participants will all be within walking distance on campus. The campus has all desired services, including a bank, grocery store, book and stationary store, multiple food services, coffee shops, laundry facilities, and social and games rooms, and is adjacent to three major shopping malls. It also has a transit centre to allow for quick access to other areas of the city, including downtown and Vieux-Québec, the old town. Opening ceremonies will take place July 31 at Université Laval, and closing ceremonies and awarding of Olympiad medalists will also be held at Université Laval, in the morning of August 6th 2016. The gold medals will be awarded at Opening Ceremony of International Geographical Union (IGU) Congress in the afternoon of August 6th at the Québec City Convention Centre during the opening ceremony of the IGU Regional Conference.

3. General information on iGeo

The International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) is an annual competition for the best 16 to 19 year old geography students from all over the world. Students chosen to represent their countries are the very best, chosen from thousands of students who participate enthusiastically in their own National Geography Olympiads. The iGeo consists of three parts: a written test, a multimedia test and a substantial fieldwork exercise requiring observation, leading to cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The programme also includes poster presentations by teams, cultural exchanges, and time for students to get to know their fellow students and explore Québec City and the local environs.

The aims of the Olympiad are to:

- stimulate active interest in geographical and environmental studies among young people;
- contribute positively to debate about the importance of geography as a senior secondary school subject by drawing attention to the quality of geographical knowledge, skills and interests among young people;
- facilitate social contacts between young people from different countries and in doing so, contribute to the understanding between nations.

The International Geography Olympiad began in 1996, and continued biannually until 2012. After that point, it became an annual event, with a significant increase in numbers of teams competing. The iGeo-2018 in Québec, Canada is the 15th event and is being hosted in North America for the first time. In 2017 the Olympiad took place in Belgrade, Serbia. The next iGeo in 2019 will be conducted in Hong Kong.

4. iGeo-2018 organizers

4.1 Contact information

Website: <http://igeo2018.ulaval.ca/>

Please check the website frequently for updates to information and the program

Email: igeo2018@ulaval.ca

4.2 Task Force 2018

Co-chair: Mrs Susan Lomas OBE, DL (United Kingdom)
Co-chair: Dr Su-Min Shen (China-Taipei)
Steering committee member: Professor Alexey Naumov (Russia)
Steering committee member: Ms Li Ling Tan (Singapore)
Steering committee member: Mr Tomasz Sawicki (Poland)
Steering committee member: Dr Dubrayka Spevek (Croatia)
Current local organizer: Dr Lynn Moorman (Canada, 2018)
Past local organizer: Mr Nikola Srzentic (Serbia, 2017)
Future local organizer: Dr Alice S.Y. Chow (Hong Kong, 2019)

4.3 Local Organizing Committee

IGU Local Committee President: Dr Matthew Hatvany (Université Laval, QC)

Canadian Association of Geographers President: Dr Dan Shrubsole
(Western University)

Co-Chairs: Ms Beth Dye (Twin Rivers Educational Centre, BC)
Dr Matthew Hatvany (Université Laval, QC)
Dr Lynn Moorman (Mount Royal University, AB)

Administrative Assistants and Post-iGeo Excursion: Mr Maxwell Bouchard
Ms Julie Nadeau

Committee Members:

Volunteers: Ms Arielle Frenette

Field Work: Mr Donald Cayer

Poster Session: Dr Chantal Déry

Excursion/Geo-Rally: Dr Étienne Berthold

4.4 iGeo-2018 supporters

The iGeo-2018 organizers are grateful to supporters, without whom this event could not take place. We would therefore like to thank the following institutions which have declared their support so far:



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Université Laval
<http://english.cast.org.cn/>



Canadian Association of Geographers
Association Canadienne des Géographes

Canadian Association of
Geographers
<http://www.moe.edu.cn/>



Royal Canadian Geographical
Society
<http://www.gsc.org.cn/>



EF Tours
<https://www.eftours.ca/>



Natural Resources Canada
Ressources naturelles Canada

Canada

Natural Resources Canada
Canada Centre for Earth
Observation and Mapping
<https://https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/10776/>

5. iGeo 2018 participants

5.1 Students

Each participating country, as defined by IGU Statute II A, can send a team of four students.

They must be students of secondary schools (general or technical), or ex-students who finished school in the year of the Olympiad and have not yet commenced regular education at university level.

- Their ages must be between 16 and 19 years old (inclusive) on 30 June of the year that the Olympiad takes place.
- Students must be able to answer test questions in the official language of the Olympiad (English). Non-native English speakers get extra facilities such as the use of a language dictionary, and extra time for long written tests.
- Students must be selected through a national geography competition. Students selected through this national competition must be enrolled in the school system of the country they represent. They do not necessarily have to be citizens of that country.
- Students who participate more than once must gain selection each time through their national competition. A student may participate no more than twice. (Please note this new condition.)
- Students must answer the test questions independently, except for any collaboration specified as allowed in the Fieldwork Test. Violation of this provision shall result in disqualification of the student from the Olympiad.

5.2 Team leaders and International Board

In addition to the students, two adult team leaders are invited.

- They must be involved in geography teaching or geography in education in their country.
- Each of them must be able to speak and write the official language of the Olympiad (English) and one of them must be able to mark students' test papers in English.

- One leader has membership of the International Board. S/he shall maintain absolute security about the contents of any test until after that particular test has taken place. S/he is eligible to participate on one of the jury panels, vote on the Statutes, review marking guidelines, translate geographic terms, etc.
- The other leader is the person responsible for the students. S/he may also assist in supervision of the tests and other activities related to the Olympiad.
- Both of them have equal rights at the event evaluation meeting of team leaders, which takes place at the end of the Olympiad.

The International Board consists of one adult representative of each country participating in the present or last Olympiad. The chair of the Task Force chairs the meetings of the International Board. Decisions of the International Board are passed by a majority vote. The chair has a casting vote. Members of the Task Force have the right to attend meetings of the International Board but, apart from the chair's casting vote, only have a vote if they are a country's representative. The decisions of the International Board are final. The International Board has the following responsibilities:

- help the Task Force and local organizer to conduct the Olympiad according to the Statutes;
- maintain and preserve confidentiality concerning the assignments and tasks and offer no assistance to any participant;
- mark the students' test assignments, this task to be carried out by subsets of the International Board acting as juries;
- ensure correct and just classification of the prize winners;
- summarize the results of the Olympiad;
- select the country to organize the next Olympiad.

5.3 Observers

The organizers of the next Olympiads may each send an observer. A country planning to participate in the next Olympiad for the first time may send an observer. Observers may be present at meetings of the International Board, but

may not vote. Requests to send observers must be made through the Task Force and approved before registering.

6. iGeo Activities

6.1 Tests

For information on the tests, what skills are needed, and where to find past questions, please visit:

<http://www.geoolympiad.org/fass/geoolympiad/participation/test-guidelines.shtml>

A student's final score is calculated by allocating 40% for the written response test score, 40% for the fieldwork score and 20% for the multimedia quiz score.

For the written response test, students are required to have stationery items such as a pen, lead pencil, coloured pencils, eraser and ruler, as well as a calculator and a language dictionary if needed. The language dictionary (to and from the student's native language and English) must be a paper book and not electronic. The calculator must be a simple calculator. Phones, tablets and other multifunction electronic devices are strictly prohibited during all tests at iGeo. It is important to **bring all materials for tests in your hand luggage** as tests will not be rescheduled due to luggage loss.

Writing and drawing materials are also required for the fieldwork test. This includes items such as coloured pencils, a ruler and thick felt-tip pens or markers in several colours.

Students cannot communicate amongst themselves during the tests."Any attempt to violate this rule will result in the disqualification of the participant.

Members of the International Board shall not reveal any information about the contents of any test before it is conducted.

6.2 Poster presentation

Posters will reflect the theme of this year's iGeo "Appreciating Landscapes". Specifically, students are to prepare a poster responding to the question:

How has water in one of its various forms (e.g., surface, ground, river, lake, coastal, sea ice, glacial ice) influenced human activities (settlement, transportation, industry, tourism, etc.) in a community or region in your country?

Posters must be created digitally, preferably using PowerPoint (template available if required). Please ask the organizers if you require a different method to create your posters. We will print the posters for you and have them available at the beginning of the iGeo.

- Poster dimensions are 30" wide by 42" high (76 cm x 106 cm)
- If you require help creating the basic PowerPoint page for the poster, please let us know.
- Portrait view only – having long posters vs wide posters will be more efficient for our space
- Ensure that posters have a 1/2" (1.5 cm) border when submitting for printing.
- Submitted posters must be submitted in .pdf and ideally < 40 mb in size.

Please note that the deadline for submission is Monday, July 9, 2018.

Posters have to be prepared and presented by the students taking part in the iGeo. Using a poster prepared by someone else is unacceptable.

The poster presentation is not counted as part of a student's final score in the iGeo. However, a prize is planned for the team whose poster is voted the best. The best posters will be displayed at the IGU Regional Conference venue.

6.3 Canadian Cultural Event

With over 40 teams it has become difficult to host an evening in which every country shares some of their culture. Pursuant to requests for a shorter evening and to have a more focused event, this year the participants will be immersed in learning about their host country's culture. The students will spend the afternoon of Saturday Aug 4th in activities and events geared to help them learn true Canadian customs, including sports, music, dancing, fashion, and maybe even food! They will be the entertainment in the evening - the stars of the Canadian Cultural show!

Participants are welcome to bring and wear clothing that reflects their culture in the Opening Ceremony on July 31st and may have other opportunities to share their cultural traditions during the iGeo event.

6.4 Programme outline: iGeo- 2018 Program at a Glance

Day	
Tues July 31	Welcome to new leaders International Board Meeting Opening Ceremony Mixer for Team Leaders
Wed Aug 1	Written Test Excursion for all to Old Québec Field Work Exercise Briefing
Thurs Aug 2	Field Work Exercise (Activity)
Fri Aug 3	Field Work Exercise (Written) Poster Session Mixer with IGU Commission on Geographical Education (CGE)
Sat Aug 4	Multimedia Test Canadian Cultural activities and presentation Workshop for potential future iGeo hosts Optional presentations for Team Leaders at IGU-CGE conference
Sun Aug 5	International Board meeting Full day excursion
Mon Aug 6	Closing ceremony (Université Laval) Gold medal presentation (Québec City Conference Centre)

6.5 Commission on Geographical Education

During the iGeo, from Aug 3rd-5th, geography education researchers and academics will be meeting at Université Laval for a conference to share latest research work and analyses on geographic education around the world. This is a “pre-conference”, a specialist conference of members of the International Geographical Union’s (IGU’s) Commission on Geographical Education (CGE), held before the main IGU conference Aug 6-10th.

iGeo Team Leaders are invited to attend talks for free during this conference, particularly on Saturday Aug 4th in the afternoon, when students will be occupied with cultural evening preparations. The conference will be held in Pavillon Palasis Prince, adjacent to the theatre where our Opening ceremonies are held. A schedule will be provided, but you may also check

<https://cge-cag2018.ca/>

(note* English introduction is below the French on the first page. The Conference will be in English only)

Other opportunities for meeting with geography education researchers are incorporated into the program. Some of them will be involved in the poster

session evaluations, and we will have a social event with both groups following the poster session. The Commission conference participants have also been invited to our Cultural evening and you may see them at our Closing session on campus as well. They will be wearing name tags to identify themselves. Likewise, if you attend any of the conference talks, **please wear your iGeo name tag and identify yourself to the organizers.**

7. Requirements for participation in Canada

7.1 Cost of participation and insurance

The cost of participation in iGeo 2018 is \$500 CDN per person. Registration links were provided to primary team contacts. If you still require assistance with your registration or payment, please contact iGeo2018@ulaval.ca

The organizers provide accommodation, catering, transport during excursions, all scheduled functions and awards. The organizers also provide free transfer by bus from the main airport on July 30th, 31st and Aug 6th. You must advise us of your arrival and departure times in registration or through email (iGeo2018@ulaval.ca) so that we may organize your transportation. Organizers do not provide transportation from your country or region to and from Canada..

Medical and travel insurance must be taken out to cover all international participants — students, team leaders and observers for the period of their stay in Canada. Participants of post-iGeo excursion must be insured for until August 11, when the field trip finishes. **Team leaders are responsible for ensuring all insurance requirements are met and that they carry the policy numbers and contact numbers during the iGeo.**

7.2 Visa to enter Canada

All visitors to Canada must have a valid passport that is valid well past their expected departure date. A visa or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) may be required. You may request a personalized letter of invitation for your visa application. You are advised to check with the respective Consulate(s) and/or Embassy(ies) for obtaining required visa, including any transit visa, as soon as possible. The Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada Special Event Code for this event is: 18IGEO.

8. Information for your stay

8.1 Climate and Conditions

The average high temperature in Québec City is 24°C and the low is 13°. We may experience humid conditions and thunderstorms. Here is a snapshot of a typical August in Québec City

- Average Temperature: 18°C / 64°F
- Average High Temperature: 24°C / 75°F
- Average Low Temperature: 13°C / 55°F
- Average Humidity: 86% morning/57% afternoon
- Average Rainfall: 110 mm

Local weather forecast: https://weather.gc.ca/city/pages/qc-133_metric_e.html

Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://meteo-laval.gel.ulaval.ca/>

8.2 What to bring

The following is a guide to what to bring in your carry-on and checked luggage.

Travel Documents/Requirements

- Passports and VISA information, as well as all policy and contact numbers for insurance and emergencies
- Spending money (Canadian currency)/Credit card(s)
- Medications
- Phone/camera

Supplies

- All of the necessary materials for the test situations including a clipboard (with plastic cover to protect written information if it is raining), multiple pens/pencils, erasers, white out, simple dictionaries and calculators. *(Please have these in your carry-on as there may not be time to purchase new supplies before the first exam if your luggage is lost).*
- Plug adaptor for Type A/B outlets <https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>
- Water bottle
- Travel coffee mug (if required)
- Personal toiletries (some can be purchased locally)
 - oSunscreen
 - oInsect repellent

Clothing

- Clothing for Québec summer weather temperatures (it could be humid),
- Evening clothing for cooler temperatures, i.e. jacket, hoodie, sweater, pants, etc
- Rain gear (rain poncho is highly recommended)
- Wind breaker
- Sturdy walking shoes, for the field work exercise and excursions
- Shorts and tee-shirts for playing football/soccer and/or other casual sports
- Semi-formal clothing or traditional outfit for the opening and closing ceremonies
- Robe or cover for dormitories/shared rooms
- Personal sun glasses (optional- sunglasses will be provided)
- Hat

Participants are expected to wear comfortable shoes and clothes for most occasions, and semi-formal clothes for official ceremonies (a team uniform is fine). Summer clothes, including shorts and dresses, are proper during this month.

A hat or cap is recommended for days spent outside in the summer sun, and **compulsory for outdoor activities during FWE**. During FWE, students also need to wear walking shoes.

The campus and accommodation buildings are immediately adjacent to a shopping centre complex of three malls. These shopping centres have all types of stores, including a pharmacy/drug store, souvenirs, electronics, and clothing. On campus you will also find a pharmacy, book and stationery store, hair salon, rental car office, bank, pub, and eating areas.

Please check your cell phone package for international communication. Wireless is easily accessible at Université Laval. Everyone will have free access to the internet.

Please check your bank card and credit card capabilities for international use (4 digit pin is used for credit cards)

8.3 Arrival information

Teams expected to arrive July 30th or 31st at Aéroport international Jean-Lesage de Québec will be transferred to Université Laval by van. The timetable of the departures will be tailored according to arrival time. Please look for the iGeo sign and volunteer in the arrivals area (through the automatic doors immediately after getting your luggage). Following the iGeo, departures from the university to the airport will be arranged on Aug. 6th, following the Gold Medal presentations.

Details for arrival will be included in Part 2: “What you need to know when you arrive in Québec”, including early arrival information and bus and taxi details.

8.4 Accommodation

All iGeo-2018 participants will be staying on the Université Laval campus, in residence rooms as per your invoice details.

All rooms will have a sink, bedding, towels, workspace and free high-speed wireless internet access. **Superior rooms**, pre-booked, will have a private bathroom, microwave, fridge, coffee maker, iron, ironing board, hair dryer and air conditioner.

Laundry facilities are also available in each building and are accessible 24 hours a day, as are games rooms (pool, ping-pong, foosball), lounges and study areas.

Free internet can be accessed by all participants across the campus.

<https://www.residences.ulaval.ca/en/short-term-accommodations/short-term-accommodations-rooms/>

8.5 Catering

There will be three main meals per day provided in the cafeteria. Dietary restrictions should have been identified already in your registration, but please ensure organizers are aware of ALL dietary requests and exclusions. Please be specific. Every participant will receive meal rickets upon arrival to campus, and starting with dinner on July 31st, will need to exchange a ticket for each meal. For the FWE and excursions occurring over the lunch hour, lunch boxes will be provided..

Vending machines for coffee and snacks are available in the basements of the residence buildings. A small grocery store has food for sale in the Student Centre (Pavillon Desjardin) and there is a large grocery store across the street in the mall.

8.6 Money, banks, tax, and tipping

Commonly accepted credit cards include Visa and MasterCard. Credit cards can be used for purchases and also for withdrawing money if the card is shown on the automatic teller machine (ATM). **Payments with credit cards typically use a microchip and 4-digit pin instead of a signature**, so if you have a 5 or 6 digit pin, check with your bank first to ensure your card can be used easily in Canada. Keep in mind not to make more than three incorrect number attempts, or your card will be locked. Different banks have different limits on the sum that can be withdrawn each time from the ATM. ATM's are located on campus.

The currency in Canada is the dollar. Exchange rates vary; for exact data please refer to currency converter sources in the internet. It is quite easy to exchange money in Canada and the rates will be more favorable, but it is advisable to exchange a small amount in your country before leaving. Mostly people will go to banks for exchange service. Remember to take your passport, which may need to be presented when converting currency.. However, for remote areas, it is difficult to exchange currency, so it is advisable to take enough money and/or credit card when you are going on daily excursions or the post-iGeo excursion.

Tipping is expected for services in Canada and range from 15%-20% of the actual cost of the service. This includes taxi, restaurant (food/drink), personal care appointments (massage, manicures, hair stylist), and will not be typically included in your bill, UNLESS you are in a large group. Check your bill carefully if you are in a group of 6 or more to see if the tip has already been added.

Québec also charges a sales tax, and you will see this as GST (national) and QST (provincial), totalling 15%. You can use the tax amount as a guideline for tipping amounts. There is no refund of tax for international shoppers.

8.7 Other useful information

The official language of Québec is French, though English is widely spoken.

Québec is in the Eastern Daylight Time Zone (EDT), UTC/GMT - 04:00 hours.

The country code for phone calls is +1, followed by a three digit area code, and then a seven digit phone number.

Electricity supply in Canada is 110-120V, 60Hz, and A and B style plugs/adaptors are required. .Please bring plug adaptors and voltage converters for your electrical equipment if necessary.



9. Basic Safety

In Canada we drive on the right. Please remember this and be careful while crossing streets. Remember that even crossing the road on pedestrian crossing does not guarantee against possible accidents. Be very careful in the city and outside the city, especially near the highways. The beginning of August is the busiest tourist season. Especially in the historic area of Québec, the streets will be very busy, and drivers may be very distracted.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

The emergency number for ambulance and rescue in Québec is **911** from every landline telephone.

Fire: 911

Police: 911

Medical Emergencies / Ambulance: 911

On campus, use any RED telephone in an emergency

LOCAL IGEO CONTACTS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Maxwell Bouchard

Phone number : +1-581-984-6807

Julie Nadeau

Phone number : +1-418-575-9403

GENERAL IGEO CONTACT

Sue Lomas

Co-chair, IGU Olympiad Task Force

Email: sueguides@hotmail.co.uk

Website: geoolympiad.org