GENIUS OLYMPIAD APPLICATION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- **Age and Grade Requirement:**
  - Open to students **in grades 8-12** (or the equivalent) from any country.
  - **The minimum age for participation is 13 years old at the time if event.**
  - Students who started university/college education before the event date are not eligible to attend
- **Student Requirement:**
  - Science, entrepreneurship, coding, AI, or short film project may be presented by **up to two (2) students**.
  - Speech, art, music solo projects may be presented by **only one (1) student**.
  - Robotics or music group projects may be presented by **up to three (3) students**.
- **Chaperone Requirement:**
  - **Students between 13-18 years old at the time of the event must have an adult chaperone** (teacher, parent, older singling, or relative).
  - Students who are 18 or older and have not started university/college at the time of the event can participate without a chaperone.
  - Only one adult will be recognized as chaperone (and pay for the chaperone fee) for up to 6 student participants (or two chaperones for up to 12 students, etc.). Additional adults may join only as guests and must pay the guest fee.
- **How to become a finalist?** Three distinct routes to attend International GENIUS Olympiad (IGO) finals.
  - Apply directly to IGO to be reviewed and selected, only if there is no NGO in your country
    - either individually or through GENIUS Olympiad Club within your schools, if exits (to create a club please check GENIUS Olympiad Clubs), or through your school (if a teacher creates an account to manage multiple projects),
  - Be selected as finalist through a regional STEM Fair (must complete an application with an application fee), or
  - Be selected as a finalist through National GENIUS Olympiad (NGO, check our website for the NGO country list).
- **Attendance and Language Requirement:**
  - Projects must be presented in-person. Virtual presentations are not allowed.
  - **Students must present their projects in English** without using any translators.
- **Project Limitations:**
  - **There is NO limit how many projects can be submitted by single student or school;** students may apply with multiple projects in any discipline to increase their chance of acceptance but will be selected as a finalist for only one project. If selected as a finalist for multiple projects, the applicant must choose one project to present.
  - **Each student may present only one project.**
  - There is no limit to how many projects from one school can become finalists.
  - The same projects can NOT be submitted in two years in a row without significant improvement or changes.
  - Projects submitted to other competitions can be submitted to GENIUS Olympiad without changes.
  - If multiple projects (more than 3-4 projects) come from one school, it is best to submit them through a single account. GENIUS Olympiad may combine multiple accounts from the same school into one.
- **A Chaperone** is an adult in charge (teacher, parent, adult sibling, or relative), responsible for the minor student and also has the right to accompany. Chaperones must stay with their student at all times during the Olympiad, except judging. The number of chaperones is limited: one chaperone per every six students (unless required by chaperone gender requirement). Two chaperones are allowed for groups of 7-12 finalist students from one school/organization.
- **A Guest** is any extra person accompanying student beyond the allowed chaperone limit (such as siblings, additional parent, extra teachers, or relatives). Guests may attend if space permits. When both parents would like to attend with their students, one parent may register as chaperone and second parent may register as guests.

DEADLINES & FEES & REFUNDS

- **EVENT SCHEDULE:** Check our **Schedule** for up-to-date application and registration deadlines.
- IGO Finalists are usually announced on or before **March 25, follow our Instagram account for updates.**
- Visa letters (invitation letters) are available within your account to download once you register and make the participation fee payment. The final participation registration deadline is **May 5**.

Fee Type	Fees	Refunds: by May 5	by June 1	after June 1
Application Fee	$75	None	None	None
Student/Chaperone Participation Fee*	$695 or $495	90%	75%	None
Guest Participation Fee*	$900 or $650	90%	75%	None
Trip Fee* (DC-NY or Boston-NY)	$795 or $1,045	90%	75%	None
JFK Airport Bus Fee	$125 – one way	Full	75%	None
Rochester Airport Bus Fee	Free-Registration is required	None	None	None

- **The application fee:** **$75 per project (not refundable)**. The application fee must be paid before the application deadline to complete your application. All applicants, including affiliated US/EU regional fair certificate holders, must pay the application fee. Projects without an application fee will not be reviewed.
- **The participation fee:**
  - **Students:** **$695 per student;** the full participation fee payment is required to confirm your participation and receive visa invitation letter. Check below what is included in the fee.
  - **Chaperones:** **$695 per chaperone;** all chaperones must register and pay; the full participation fee payment is required to confirm your participation and receive visa invitation letter. **Unregistered chaperones will NOT be allowed** at any events or services. Check below what is included in the fee.
  - **Guests:** **$900 per guest;** the full participation fee payment is required to confirm your participation and receive visa invitation letter. Check below what is included in the fee.
  - **Refund Policy:** **10% of the fees is not refundable under any circumstances;** 75% of the fee is refundable between May 5-June 1st and, and **NO refunds after June 1**. Unregistered parents will not be allowed at events.
  - **Services included with Participation Fee:** a- Event management and activities, b- Registration package (T-shirt, bag, water bottle), c- Digital participation certificates- available to download in your application account once the events is over, d- Accommodations in University dorms (unless you choose to stay in hotel for a reduced fee), e- Meals on campus at select dining hall (except dinner on Niagara falls day), f- Niagara Falls trip (90 min away), including Maid of the Mist Boat tour, e- Rochester Airport Shuttle (requires registration). **Travel expenses to/from the GENIUS Olympiad event campus are participants' responsibility**. GENIUS will provide JFK airport pick-up and drop-off services for an additional fee for those, requires additional registration.
  - **Reduced fee policy**: If participants choose to stay at hotel of their choice instead of using GENIUS provided university dorm accommodations, they are eligible to pay reduced participation fee: $495 for students/chaperones or $650 for guest. You need to select "staying at hotel" option when registering and arrange and pay for your own hotel accommodation. They are eligible all services described within participation fee, except accommodation at the university dorms (option d).
- **Optional trips (for more information):** GENIUS offers two trips starting after GENIUS Olympiad:
  - **1- DC/NY City ($795, 3 nights&2 days):** Start on Friday after the award ceremony, one day at Washington DC and one day at New York City; ends on Monday morning with drop-off at JFK airport by 11 am.
  - **2-Boston/NY City ($1045, 4 nights&3 days):** Start on Friday after the award ceremony, one day at Boston (includes visit to Harvard and MIT universities), half day for visiting Yale and Princeton Universities, and one day at New York City; ends on Tuesday morning with drop-off at JFK airport by 11 am.
  - **Discounts:** Chaperones will receive a 10% discount for every attending student/guest. Trip registration and payments are made within the application site during participant registration.

- Refund Policy: **10% of the fees is not refundable under any circumstances;** 75% of the fee is refundable between May 5-June 1st and, and **NO refunds after June 1**. Unregistered parents will not be allowed at events.

- **JFK Airport Pick up and Drop Off Fee:** Check the Finalist Guide for more information
  - **Arrival JFK Pick-up: $125 per person (nonrefundable);** Leaves JFK on Monday at 11am, 3 pm, or 6 pm.
  - **Arrival JFK Drop-off: $125 per person (nonrefundable);** Leaves SJF Saturday at 4 am (should be at JFK by 11 am)
  - Refund Policy: **10% of the fees is not refundable under any circumstances;** 75% of the fee is refundable between May 5-June 1st and, and **NO refunds after June 1**. Unregistered parents will not be allowed at events.
- **Rochester Airport pick-up and drop-off fee: Free but REQUIRES Registration.** See Finalist Guide
- **All Fees paid online using a credit card** during application and registration within the application site.
- *** Fee notes for those attending through affiliated fair:** Our affiliated GENIUS Olympiad Country Affiliates may charge additional fees to cover organizational costs such as chaperone supervision, group visa processing, and coordinating travel to IGO, as these are required parts of the IGO participation process. In these countries, individual participants cannot apply to or attend IGO directly and must participate through the official country affiliate.

GENERAL RULES

- All events take place at St John Fisher university campus, except the Niagara Falls trip.
- The GENIUS Judging Committee has the right to reject any project without giving a reason.
- International chaperones may not serve as a judge. US chaperones may serve as judge, if needed.
- Applicants who do not submit the required project information correctly and on-time shall be disqualified.
- Participants must avoid dishonesty, cheating, such as falsifying data, stealing ideas, or plagiarism (presenting another person's work as one's own).
- By attending GENIUS Olympiad, all participants agree to follow the Code of Conduct, rules, and agreements explained in the **finalist guide** posted on our website. Participants who break the code of conduct and rules may be disqualified and asked to leave without a refund.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- In order to attend International GENIUS Olympiad, you need to be selected as a finalist one of the three ways:
  - Apply directly to IGO to be reviewed and selected, only if there is no NGO in your country
    - either individually or through GENIUS Olympiad Club within your schools, if exits (to create a club please check GENIUS Olympiad Clubs), or through your school (if a teacher creates an account to manage multiple projects),
  - Be selected as a finalist through a regional STEM Fair (must complete an application with an application fee), or
  - Be selected as a finalist through National GENIUS Olympiad (NGO, check our website for the NGO country list).



1- All students from US or from countries where there is no National Genius Olympiad (NGO) must apply directly to International Genius Olympiad (IGO) website. If your project is selected by a regional STEM fair for IGO, you must still apply via IGO website.
2- Students must apply to their NGO, if available. For more information on NGO country list, visit our website.
3- These are optional trips subject to additional fee. More information about trips options and fees, visit our website.

CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

- **For Category specific rules for application and the project examples** please click on the category: AI, ART, Coding, Entrepreneurship, Music, Robotics, STEM, Short Film, Speech.
- **FINALIST GUIDE** provides information and rules for finalists who will attend the event regarding arrival, accommodations, dining, dressing, and other rules.