



CANADIAN BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD 2025

The Canadian Biology Olympiad / Les Olympiades Canadiennes de Biologie (CBO / OCB) is a nationwide organization involved in the selection of four secondary school students, talented in the field of biological sciences, to represent Canada at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

This year the 36th IBO will take place **Quezon City, Philippines**, from July 20 to 27, 2025.

The CBO committee will organize an online competition, run at registered schools, to select the top four performing students to represent Canada at the 36th IBO-2025 (see details below).

A) Who can participate in the CBO / OCB competition?

- Competitors must be residents of Canada and be Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants.
- Competitors are students at a regular secondary school for general education in Canada. Most of the successful students have taken at least one stand-alone biology course. In Quebec, first year CGEP students are also eligible to participate.
- Competitors have not obtained a diploma allowing them to study at a university or equivalent institution, before the 1st of January 2025.
- Competitors have not yet started studying at a university or equivalent institution as part-time or full-time students.
- Competitors must be under the age of 20 as of July 1st, 2025.
- Competitors have not already participated in the IBO (students can only participate once).

B) Selection of the national team and participation in the IBO

In addition to the criteria stated above:

- In accordance with the IBO rules, competitors cannot train for more than one week in a specialized credit granting school besides their regular secondary school.
- Competitors cannot compete in another International Olympiad in the same year they are participating in the IBO.
- No school can have more than 2 members on the CBO team.
- Initial team selection should have students from at least 2 Canadian provinces/territories.
- Team composition may vary depending on student's acceptance to join the IBO team.

C) The CBO/OCB Competition

The CBO competition will take place **on Thursday April 9, 2025 from 1 to 2 pm (ET); 10 to 11 am (PT)**

The CBO-OCB competition is a time-limited online exam, taken at your school under the supervision of a teacher. Questions will cover the following areas of knowledge:

- Theoretical knowledge typically covered in senior biology high school courses across Canada – There is not set curriculum for the exam. The Campbell Biology textbook and similar resources are a good tool to ensure you are covering the relevant material.
- Laboratory inquiries - you will **either** perform (with support from your school and biology teachers) **or** familiarize yourself (watch videos / read protocols and be able to interpret results) with three (3) labs commonly covered in senior high school biology courses. The list of labs and associated resources will be posted on the CBO website.
- Common laboratory techniques – you will familiarize yourself with six (6) techniques used in biology labs. The list of lab techniques and associated resources will be posted on the CBO website.

The questions are designed to test the student's ability to apply their knowledge of biology, both theoretically and practically. The split between theoretical and practical questions will be 2/3 theory and 1/3 practical skills. Most questions will be formatted as True/False, Multiple choice, Fill-in the blank, and calculations.

In order to participate in the competition, the first step is to register your school. **School registration is FREE and should be completed by the teacher who will be in charge of proctoring the exam at their school.** A link to the exam will also be sent to the registered teacher from each school registered with the CBO/OCB. Once the school registration is complete, the individual students must register with the CBO/OCB (see below). The fee for student's registration is \$20.00.

Students will not be able to participate unless their school registration is received by the deadline. Students from registered schools who register with the CBO/OBC competition will receive additional information.

Please note that the CBO / OCB takes academic integrity very seriously. The competition must be completed on your own without help from anyone and/or from books, internet sources, etc. Accessing external help while competing at the exam will be considered plagiarism and anyone who engages in this practice will be automatically disqualified from the competition.

D) Registration for the CBO/OCB competition:

Your **school must be registered** in order for you to participate in the competition. School registration is **FREE**.

Students who want to compete in the CBO/OCB competition need to ensure their school is registered and must complete their individual registration form. There is a **registration fee of \$20 per student**.

The link to the school registration and to the student registration are included below:

School registration form	Individual student registration form
https://forms.gle/1AvpvDKEBv1AVaUd6	https://forms.gle/PrEdMCAPfaj6MkNn7

Student registration fee payment:

- After submitting your registration, a new page will open with instructions on how to pay the registration fee. Make sure to save this information until you have completed the payment.
- **Students are not officially registered until the school registration, their individual registration form, and the registration fee have been received.**
- **You will be notified once payment has been received and your registration is complete.**

School registration, registration of the individual students and fee payment by the students must be received by the registration deadline of **March 22nd, 2025; 11:59 pm Eastern time.** No extension will be given.

E) Selection of the team

Final placing for the competition and selection of the four students who will be part of the National Team to compete at the 36th IBO will be based solely on the results of the CBO/OCD 2025 online competition.

The correction of the exam and team selection is made by the CBO Jury consisting of Biology Professors and Teachers. All decisions from the Jury are final.

F) Cost of going to the IBO

As a non-for-profit organization run by volunteers, we usually have limited funding to support team Canada students with the cost of attending the IBO competition. We expect the cost to be at minimum \$3000.00 this year. We understand that this is a very high cost to bear by the students and we will do our best to support any fund-raising activities the students may want to do to offset the cost.

Summary of Important Dates

Events	Deadlines
Registration to the CBO/OCB competition (including school registration and student fee payment)	March 22, 2025, 11:59 (ET)
CBO/OCB national exam	April 9, 2025; 1 pm (ET); 10 am (PT)
36th IBO in Quezon City, Philippines	July 20 to 27, 2025
CBO camp	July 13 to 17, 2025