



CANADIAN BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD 2026

The Canadian Biology Olympiad / Les Olympiades Canadiennes de Biologie (CBO / OCB) is a nation-wide 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 **37th IBO** will take place in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, from July 12 to 19, 2026.

The CBO committee will run an online competition to select the top four performing students to represent Canada at IBO-2026 (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 2026.
- 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, 2026.
- Competitors have not already participated in the IBO (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 exam for the CBO competition will take place **on Thursday April 9, 2026 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, with questions based on any of the topics typically covered by secondary biology curriculum. A good companion textbook that can be used to study for the exam is the Campbell biology textbook or similar. Besides the theoretical biology questions, you will also be tested on three (3) lab activities and six (6) common laboratory techniques (information about the labs and techniques will be posted shortly on the website). The labs and the techniques should be completed to help you prepare for the exam questions. If you do not have access to the equipment/materials, research how to do the labs/techniques using online videos. The exam's 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, respectively. Most questions will be formatted as True/False, Multiple choice, Fill-in the blank, and calculations.

In order to participate in the competition, both the school and the individual students must register with the CBO (see below). Students will not be able to participate if their school registration is not received by the deadline. Students who register for the CBO/OBC competition will receive additional information closer to the date of the competition.

Please note that the CBO / OCB takes academic integrity very seriously. The test must be done on your own without help from anyone and/or from books, internet sources, etc. Accessing external help while completing 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.**

Please note that the person registering the school should be the person proctoring the exam at the school.

Students wanting to register for the CBO/OCB competition need to complete the registration form and send a **registration fee of \$25**.

The links to the school registration and your personal registration forms are included below:

SCHOOL Registration form	STUDENT Registration form
https://forms.gle/npt8KMMmeuEdSHs58	https://forms.gle/fv6c3HnbxW9dvbCp7

About the registration fee payment:

- After submission of your registration form, 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 will not be officially registered until the school registration and the registration fee have been received.**
- **You will be notified by email once payment has been received and your registration is complete.**

Registration of the school, registration of the students and payment of the students must be received by the registration deadline of **March 30th 2026; 11:59 pm Pacific 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 37th IBO will be based solely on the results of the CBO/OCD 2026 online exam.

Exam correction 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 have limited funding to support team Canada students with the cost of attending the competition. We expect the cost to be at least \$2,500 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 for the CBO/OCB competition (including school registration and fee payment)	March 30, 2026, 11:59 (PT)
CBO/OCB national exam	April 9, 2026; 1 pm (ET); 10 am (PT)
37th IBO, Vilnius (Lithuania)	July 12 to 19, 2026
CBO camp; UBC; Kelowna campus	TBA