IMedC

International Medicine Competition 2027

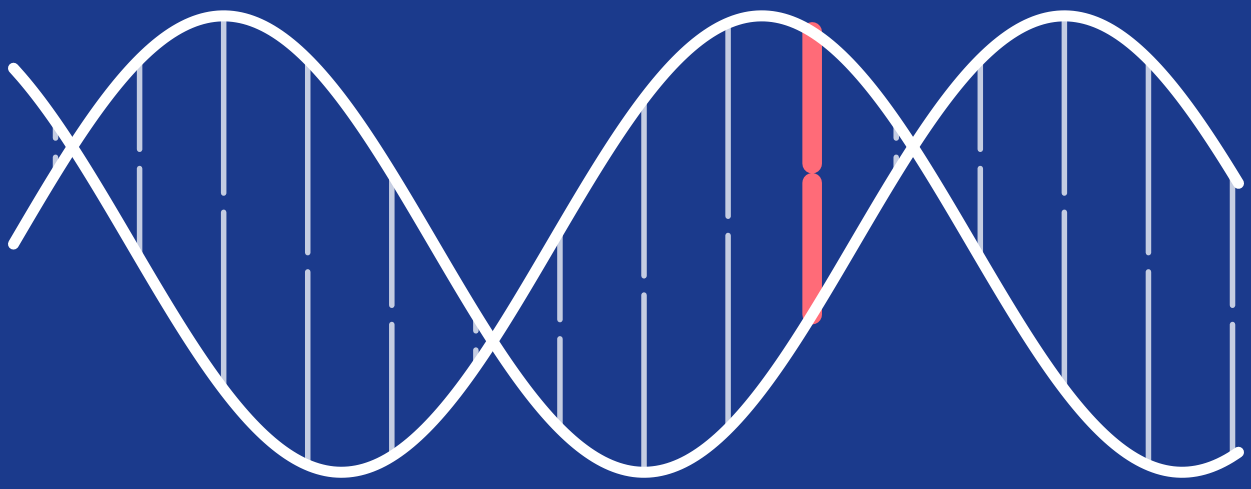
IMedC

Information Flyer

Three rounds of medical science for high school and university students.

Participate at imedc.org

Plate IV The DNA double helix, one base pair marked



Qualification Round deadline	Semi-Final Round	Final Round
7 February 2027	**March 2027**	**April 2027**

1 What is IMedC?

1.1 Vision, Mission, and Values

Medicine is where biology, chemistry and human life meet. Understanding how the body works, what goes wrong in disease and how treatments act allows doctors and researchers to prevent suffering, cure illness and keep people healthy. Our society urgently needs talented doctors, pharmacists, nurses, researchers and public health experts to care for people and to solve the medical challenges of tomorrow.

The International Medicine Competition offers students a platform to challenge their reasoning, explore the medical sciences, and go deeper than the standard school curriculum. We believe that blending education with friendly competition can inspire students to develop a lasting passion for medicine, help them find out if medicine is for them before they apply to study it, and potentially lead them to fulfilling careers in medicine, research and healthcare.

The International Medicine Competition aims to be accessible to all students from all countries, regardless of their background, school or institution. All you need is a pen, paper and an internet connection to join.

1.2 What makes IMedC unique?

While competition is part of IMedC, our core mission is to foster genuine engagement with medicine, sparking curiosity and encouraging further exploration of medicine and related sciences. IMedC is a learning journey, enabled by diverse problem formats that deepen a student's understanding through application. Key aspects that distinguish IMedC include:

- **Internationality**: From the very first round, IMedC is a truly global event. All participants tackle the same challenges, ensuring fair assessment and fostering international connections.
- **Digital Accessibility**: We use the internet to open participation to students everywhere, regardless of geographic location or school affiliation. While teacher guidance is beneficial, motivated individuals can participate independently from anywhere.
- **The Breadth of Medicine**: The problems cover nine areas: anatomy; physiology; biochemistry and genetics; pathology; pharmacology; microbiology and immunology; neuroscience; epidemiology and public health; and medical ethics.
- **Reasoning, not Memorising**: IMedC problems are built on diagrams, data and cases. You work out where blood goes through a hole in the heart, or what a trial result really means, instead of reciting facts.
- **Real-World Research**: In the Semi-Final Round you work with a real medical research paper, for many participants their first contact with actual medical research and current discoveries.
- **Scaling Difficulty Levels**: Our problems are designed to engage both experienced enthusiasts

and students who are just beginning to explore medicine beyond the classroom. The difficulty ranges from approachable problems that reinforce foundational concepts to advanced challenges that require deeper analytical thinking.

- **Online Tools for Educators**: We equip teachers and schools with resources and support. A dedicated teacher account allows teachers to follow results and certificates, pay Semi-Final Round costs for a group, and supervise the Semi-Final Round exam.
- **Local Communities & Representatives**: IMedC encourages the formation of local student groups focused on medicine. Our Representative Program empowers motivated students to inspire peers, organize local events, and build communities around a shared interest in medicine.

2 Who can participate?

Current high school and university students from all grades and countries are invited to participate. There are three age groups:

Junior	10th grade and below, or younger than 16
Youth	11th to 13th grade, or 16 and older
Senior	University students, or 19 and older

Students from all age groups receive the same problems in all rounds. However, the number of points required to advance depends on your age group: younger students need fewer points. To succeed, you will need curiosity, reasoning and creativity. As some problems involve reading research material, good reading comprehension in English is helpful. A reliable internet connection is necessary for participation and submission.

My age or grade changes after the submission deadline. Which group do I belong to?

Your grade or age on the day of the Qualification Round submission deadline determines your age group for the entire competition.

Do I have to be a student to participate?

Yes, participation is open to students currently enrolled in high school, college or university. If you are in a transitional period (e.g., a gap year between high school and university) and intend to begin university studies soon, you are also welcome to participate.

3 Why participate?

The International Medicine Competition is foremost an educational initiative, enabling students to develop and demonstrate their reasoning across a wide range of medical questions. To foster enthusiasm and friendly competition, participants also receive certificates and have the opportunity to earn awards, cash prizes and international recognition. The awards are worth a total of 2,500 USD, including cash prizes and special partner program awards worth over 1,400 USD.

3.1 Prizes and Awards

Every participant receives a certificate acknowledging their effort. In the Final Round, exceptional performance is recognized with Bronze, Silver or Gold Honours. The top students in each age group receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes, while National Awards are presented to the highest-scoring participants from each country.

Senior Category

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

Youth Category

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

Junior Category

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 1st Prize Certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 2nd Prize Certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash Prize, Special 3rd Prize Certificate

We further honour the following achievements, which are outlined in the sections below:

Special Partner Awards	Partner program awards worth over 1,400 USD (top participants matching the eligibility criteria)
National Awards	Special National Award Certificate
All Finalists	Participation Certificate with Bronze, Silver or Gold Honour
All Participants	Official Participation Certificate

Who will receive National Awards?

Reflecting IMedC's global outlook, we recognize the top three participants from each country who achieve at least 50% of the total points in the Final Round. These students receive a National Award certificate, and a list of top national performers will be published on our website.

3.2 Awards for Representatives

Each year, we recognize the dedication and impact of our most active representatives with special awards. Based on the number of students they inspire, their documented activities and their community engagement, the following awards are presented:

Representative Award for Most Overall Participants 1 AWARD	Awarded to the representative who encouraged the highest number of students to join IMedC.
Representative Award for Most Finalists 1 AWARD	Awarded to the representative whose guidance helped the most students reach the Final Round.
Representative Award for Excellent Encouragement MULTIPLE AWARDS	Presented to representatives who demonstrate outstanding commitment within their communities by organizing impactful events, inspiring students to explore medicine, or providing meaningful support to IMedC participants.

3.3 Awards for Teachers and Schools

In recognition of the vital role educators and institutions play in nurturing talent in medicine, IMedC presents awards for teachers and three types of school awards (non-monetary) to honour their efforts:

Teacher Awards 3 AWARDS	For the most involved and contributing teachers.
School Award for Most Participants 1 AWARD	Awarded to the school with the highest number of registered participants in the Qualification Round.
School Award for Most Finalists 1 AWARD	Awarded to the school with the most participants qualifying for the Final Round.
School Awards for Excellence MULTIPLE AWARDS	Presented to schools that demonstrate strong overall student performance, foster a supportive environment for participants, or show exceptional commitment to promoting medical education through IMedC.

How do schools participate to win these awards?

Schools automatically participate when students register using the school's name. Please ensure all students enter the school name accurately and consistently. We also encourage teachers from participating schools to create a teacher account.

3.4 Further Achievements

Taking part in an international competition like IMedC contributes to personal growth and strengthens your academic profile, especially if you are thinking about studying medicine. It offers a unique opportunity to sharpen your reasoning, work with real medical research, and connect with peers who share your interest in medicine.

Global Network: Successful participants and winners join the international IMedC network: a community of motivated students from around the world. This network fosters collaboration, inspiration and lasting connections. Access details are shared with qualified participants.

Opportunities (e.g., Internships, Scholarships): The IMedC team curates and shares information about relevant international and regional opportunities, including internships, scholarships, summer schools, research programs and other competitions. These are shared directly with qualifying participants and through the alumni platform.

Regional Meetups & Events: The IMedC team will organize meetups, workshops and study sessions in various regions. All participants are welcome to join and meet fellow students interested in medicine.

Do I receive a hard copy of the certificate(s)?

Hard copies of certificates will be mailed to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize winners. All other participants, including finalists receiving Honours, will receive high-quality digital certificates (PDF) with permanent verification IDs, which anyone can check at: https://imedc.org/verify

4 Process and Rounds

The International Medicine Competition is divided into three rounds: the Qualification Round, the Semi-Final Round and the Final Round. In the Qualification Round you may work out solutions in a group, but everyone submits their own solution; the Semi-Final and Final are individual, supervised exams. Each round features its own challenges that test and deepen your understanding of medicine.

4.1 Qualification Round

The Qualification Round is the starting point of the competition. It includes five problems from across medicine (labelled A to E), designed to be accessible while spanning a range of medical topics. Each problem is worth 5 points, 25 points in total. To qualify for the Semi-Final Round, participants need at least 12/14/16 points (Junior/Youth/Senior). All participants receive participation certificates. There are no fees or registration costs to participate in the Qualification Round.

QUALIFICATION ROUND DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the Qualification Round is **Sunday, 7 February 2027**, 23:59 UTC+0. This deadline is strictly enforced, so please plan accordingly.

Problems

The problems of the Qualification Round span the nine areas of the competition, from anatomy and physiology to epidemiology and medical ethics, ensuring engaging challenges across all levels.

Solution and Submission Information

Participants must prepare a solution document with written explanations for **all problems**. Participants may submit their solution document in one of two formats:

- Digitally typed solutions (recommended), using a standard word processor or LaTeX.
- Clear scans or photos of handwritten work. Multiple pages must be combined into a single PDF.

It is essential that participants show their reasoning clearly for all problems. Points are awarded for correct reasoning and explanations, even if the final answer is incorrect. Clear explanations, labelled diagrams and well-structured arguments are all important components of a strong submission.

When you submit your solution, a participant account will be created automatically to help you manage your submission. You can access your account and submission using the credentials you set during the submission process: https://imedc.org/login. Please verify that your solution has uploaded correctly.

We also ask participants to ensure that their name, school, city and date of birth are entered accurately during registration, as this information will be used for all certificates.

Announcement of Results

Qualification Round results will be announced on **Monday, 22 February 2027**. Participants will be notified via email and through their participant accounts. Performance reports and certificates will also be available through the participant account at: https://imedc.org/login.

4.2 Semi-Final Round

Participants who successfully complete the Qualification Round are invited to the Semi-Final Round, which features more challenging problems. At IMedC, each round is designed as part of a continuous learning experience, so concepts from the Qualification Round may reappear and be applied in new ways in the Semi-Final Round.

This round is a supervised 60-minute exam with three problems, each varying in difficulty and points:

- **1 Foundational Problem (4 points)**: Building on core concepts of medicine and the life sciences.
- **1 Advanced Problem (6 points)**: Addressing more complex scenarios that combine several areas of medicine.
- **1 Research Problem (8 points)**: Based on a recent medical research paper you receive before the exam. Participants are expected to understand the concepts described in the paper and answer related analytical questions. This offers direct exposure to current medical research.

The maximum score is 18 points. To qualify for the Final Round, participants must score at least 8/10/12 points (Junior/Youth/Senior). Clearly outlining your reasoning is crucial for all problems and contributes significantly to your score.

Process and Exam

The Semi-Final Round begins on **Friday, 19 March 2027** with the release of the research paper for preparation. You then have from **Sunday, 21 March 2027** until **Tuesday, 23 March 2027** to take the 60-minute exam at any point during this period. The exam must be supervised either by a teacher (recommended) or by IMedC using an online supervision system.

You take the exam on a dedicated online exam platform (https://imedc.org/exam) on a computer, laptop or phone. During the exam, you write your solutions on paper and scan them afterwards. The research paper is available in the exam interface. Qualified participants will receive a detailed Semi-Final Round information document about supervision options and the exam process.

Registration and Costs

If you succeed in the Qualification Round, you can choose to participate in the Semi-Final Round by registering from your participant account.

> SEMI-FINAL ROUND REGISTRATION DEADLINE
>
> The registration deadline for the Semi-Final Round is **Tuesday, 16 March 2027**.

This educational opportunity comes with diverse costs, including human resources, technical infrastructure, materials and more. While our sponsors cover some of these expenses, we need to ask participants to cover this year's **Semi-Final Round registration costs of 15 EUR** to make IMedC possible on a global level.

The registration costs are necessary to provide the resources required to run a competition at this scale, including the evaluation of the Semi-Final Round. There are no other costs involved. The registration costs can be covered with any common payment method, and we will inform all qualified participants about further details. Financial aid, including partial and full waivers, is available for socio-economically disadvantaged participants (https://imedc.org/financialaid). You can find detailed information in the Registration Costs Flyer 2027.

Can I participate only in the Qualification Round?

Yes, you can participate only in the Qualification Round and receive your certificate. However, you would not proceed to the following rounds or be eligible for finalist awards.

4.3 Final Round

Participants who excel in the Semi-Final Round qualify for the Final Round: a fast-paced, supervised 40-minute online exam with 30 multiple-choice and short-answer questions across all of medicine, drawing on concepts explored in the Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds.

Questions appear one by one and you cannot go back. Multiple-choice questions have four possible answers with only one correct, are worth 1 point each, and you have 1 minute per question. Short-answer questions ask for a single word, term or number, are worth 2 points each, and you have 2 minutes per question. There is no penalty for incorrect answers. There are no costs to participate in the Final Round.

Final rankings, awards and prizes are determined by the Final Round score. In case of ties, scores from the previous rounds are used as tie-breakers.

FINAL ROUND DATE

All Final Round exams will take place on **Tuesday, 20 April 2027**.

Final Round Supervision

Finalists take the exam from home through our secure online exam platform (https://imedc.org/exam), supervised by IMedC's online supervision system. Finalists choose an exam time slot in the evening of the exam day in advance. The supervision system requires a computer, laptop or phone with a webcam, a second phone with camera and microphone, and a valid ID or passport. All details are provided in the Final Round information document.

Result Announcement

The final results of the competition, including winners and honours, will be announced on **Monday, 26 April 2027**.

4.4 Timetable and Deadlines

Please find the key dates for IMedC below. Note that all deadlines are at 23:59 UTC+0. While unlikely, dates are subject to minor adjustments if necessary.

Qualification Round

Sunday, 7 February 2027	Submission Deadline
Monday, 22 February 2027	Announcement of Results

Semi-Final Round

Tuesday, 16 March 2027	Registration Deadline
Friday, 19 March 2027	Release of Research Paper
Sunday, 21 March 2027	Start of Semi-Final Round Exam
Tuesday, 23 March 2027	Semi-Final Round Exam Deadline
Monday, 5 April 2027	Announcement of Results

Final Round

Tuesday, 20 April 2027	Day of the Final Round Exam
Monday, 26 April 2027	Announcement of Results

5 Information for Teachers and Schools

Teachers, schools and parents are encouraged to share IMedC as an extracurricular learning opportunity for students interested in, or simply curious about, medicine. The primary objective of IMedC is to motivate students to engage with medicine and the life sciences, and to offer a platform for talented individuals to demonstrate and develop their reasoning. We provide dedicated tools and resources to help teachers integrate the competition into their lessons and support their students throughout the process.

5.1 Awards for Teachers and Schools

We recognize the vital role of schools and educators by offering special awards to the most involved teachers and to institutions with high participation and exceptional student performance (see Section 3.3 for details).

5.2 Teacher Account and Resources

We invite teachers to create a teacher account (https://imedc.org/teacher-registration). The teacher account provides tools to:

- Follow your students' results and download their certificates.
- Pay the Semi-Final Round registration costs for a group of students.
- Supervise the Semi-Final Round exam.

With a school partnership, your school gets one school account. From 25 Semi-Final Round participants, the registration costs drop to 13 EUR per participant; above 50 participants, printed certificates are shipped to your school. The partnership is free and non-binding: https://imedc.org/school-partnership

If you are interested in establishing an IMedC or medicine club at your school, using IMedC problems in your lessons, or need promotional material such as flyers and posters, please visit our website or contact us at teachers@imedc.org.

6 Representative Program

As a global competition, IMedC depends on passionate representatives to reach students across schools, cities and countries. Representatives act as local contacts, promoting IMedC, helping organize activities and building a community centred around medicine. This role is an excellent opportunity to develop leadership and communication skills, strengthen your CV or résumé, and experience the satisfaction of inspiring others to explore medicine.

6.1 Requirements

Applicants must be at least 14 years old, have a genuine interest in medicine and basic English, and be willing to invest time in promoting IMedC and related activities within their community. Please note: representative certificates are awarded to those who actively contribute, linked to engaging at least one participant in the Semi-Final Round.

6.2 Responsibilities and Benefits

Representatives take on a range of meaningful tasks, including:

- Encouraging students to participate in IMedC.
- Informing schools, science clubs and local organizations about the competition.
- Optionally organizing local events, workshops or study groups related to medicine.
- Serving as a local point of contact for IMedC participants.

You report on your outreach every quarter. Official representatives receive a certificate, a personal IMedC email address, their own public page, priority for financial aid, and the chance to win representative awards. Possible representative activities include:

- Using social media to share IMedC updates and content about medicine.
- Presenting IMedC to teachers, school administrators or student clubs.
- Starting or supporting after-school medicine clubs or science interest groups.
- Organizing information sessions, workshops or problem-solving practice groups.

6.3 Special Awards for Representatives

Each year, we recognize outstanding representatives for their dedication and impact. These awards highlight individuals who have gone above and beyond in encouraging participation and organizing meaningful activities (see Section 3.2 for details). While recognition is appreciated, your primary motivation should be the desire to inspire others.

6.4 Application Process

To become an official IMedC Representative, applicants complete the online application form. The selection process consists of two stages. In the first stage, applicants submit a CV or résumé along with a brief statement outlining their motivation and plans for promoting IMedC in their region. In the second stage, shortlisted candidates complete a short problem sheet and submit a motivational video of approximately five minutes. All applications are reviewed by the IMedC coordination team.

Apply here: https://imedc.org/application

7 Further Information

7.1 Participant Account

All registered participants receive access to a personal online account. Use it to manage your submissions, check your results, view performance reports and download your certificates: https://imedc.org/login

7.2 Further Materials and Documents

Visit our website for additional resources that can be used to promote the International Medicine Competition. Available materials typically include:

- Information Flyers (like this one)
- IMedC Posters (digital and printable)
- Official IMedC Logos and Brand Assets

7.3 Newsletter and Notifications

Subscribe to IMedC updates on our website to stay informed about upcoming rounds, deadlines, opportunities in medicine and other important announcements.

7.4 Contact and Questions

If you have questions, feedback, or experience any issues related to IMedC, please first consult the FAQ on our website or contact your local IMedC representative, if available (a list is provided on our website). You can also reach the IMedC team via email. We will respond as soon as possible: info@imedc.org

7.5 Organizers and Partners

The International Medicine Competition is an independent initiative led by a dedicated team committed to advancing medical education. Meet the full team online: https://imedc.org/team. The main contacts for this year's competition are:

- Program Coordinator: Dr. Rami Aly, coordinator@imedc.org
- Team Coordinator: Fabian Schneider
- Representatives and outreach: representatives@imedc.org
- Teachers and schools: teachers@imedc.org

We extend our sincere thanks to all coordinators, volunteers and partners whose dedication makes the International Medicine Competition possible for students around the world.