



16th International Geography Olympiad
Hong Kong, China

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the 2019 iGeo Organizing Committee, we are pleased to invite your country/place to send a team to the 16th International Geography Olympiad being held in Hong Kong, China, **from 30 July to 5 August 2019**, under the auspices of the International Geography Union. The Education University of Hong Kong will hold the 2019 iGeo, in cooperation with the Hong Kong Geographical Association (co-organizer). All teams should arrive on 30 July and the closing ceremony will be held in the late afternoon of 5 August. Post-iGeo excursion will depart on 6 August and last about 4-6 days.

Please complete the online application form and submit it by **31 January 2019**. Please see our website for further information and online application form: www.eduhk.hk/igeo2019.

As you know, the iGeo is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the geographical knowledge and skills of the best students representing your country, to reward the most prominent young geographers of the world, and to promote professional contacts within the worldwide geographical education community. Each team will be composed of four students that have been selected through a national geography competition and are aged between 16 and 19 years old inclusively on June 30, 2019. It should be noted that students may not participate more than twice. They will be accompanied by two adult team leaders who are involved in geographical education in their country, and who can write and speak English. One of the team leaders must be fluent in English and experienced in the evaluation of assignments to mark students' written answers to the tests. For more details, please see the Statutes at www.geoolympiad.org.

Teams are responsible for their own travel, visas and insurance. The **tentative registration fee is HKD\$3,700 per person (approx. USD470 per person)**. This is a tentative amount for teams to apply funding. The exact registration fee will be announced in January/February 2019. The fee covers transport between Hong Kong International Airport and the University campus, accommodation (a twin-bed room shared with another participant in our university hostel, from the night of 30 July to the night of 5 August), meals, local transport for excursions, printing for poster session.

iGeo 2019 consists of three academic challenges over the course of a week: a written response test, a fieldwork exercise, and a multimedia test. Since English is the official language of the iGeo, all tasks and related materials are presented in English, and students will be required to write their responses in English. Accommodation will be made for students who are not schooled in English (i.e., additional time allotment for the tests and use of approved bilingual dictionaries). For more information about the tests, please see the Guidelines for Tests at www.geoolympiad.org.

In addition to the above-mentioned tests, the iGeo program includes a poster presentation session and a local cultural function. During the iGeo we will also offer excursions to places of great interest – the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Victoria Harbour and downtown areas (subject to weather conditions and scheduling). A draft outline of the program is available in the 2019 iGeo website and more details will be sent to participating teams in due course.

Following the iGeo, two options of post-iGeo excursions are being planned. One is a 4-day tour for heritage and nature visits within Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Another one is a 6-day UNESCO World Heritage Sites tour in Sichuan province in Mainland China (Wolong National Reserve, Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Mount Qingcheng, as well as Wenchuan earthquake ruins). Post-iGeo excursions to Mainland China may require additional visa arrangements. More information on the post-iGeo trip options will be available online at a later date.

A formal written invitation to the Olympiad (to facilitate the visa application process) will be provided to participating countries/places upon request. Please check the visa requirements and deadlines for your specific country/place to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Mainland China (for the Sichuan Post-excursion participants).

Visit Visa / Entry Permit Requirements for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/visit-transit/visit-visa-entry-permit.html>



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Visit China, the State Council, the People's Republic of China:
<http://english.gov.cn/services/visitchina/>

Countries which participated in the 2017 or 2018 iGeos will automatically be accepted. Decisions on the acceptance of other teams will be made by 20 February 2019. Queries about the 2019 iGeo should be emailed to igeo2019@eduhk.hk. General queries about eligibility should be sent to the Task Force Co-Chair, Sue Lomas at sueguides@hotmail.co.uk. If you are no longer involved with the organization of your country's/place's iGeo, please forward this message to the appropriate individual and inform Su-Min Shen (smshen@ntnu.edu.tw) in regard to the change of contact information. For more details on the iGeo please also refer to the official website at: www.geoolympiad.org.

Please complete the online application form and submit it by **31 January 2019**. Please see our website for further information and application forms: www.eduhk.hk/igeo2019.

The deadline for the fee payment is 17 May 2019. Details on making the payment will be given to teams after their applications have been approved.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hong Kong in 2019.

Co-chair, 2019 iGeo Local Organizing Committee

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