

# IOBSL

## Inter-University Biology Challenge 2020



A team-based competition for undergraduates  
organized by the Institute of Biology Sri Lanka

### **“Sustainable solutions to face the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond”**

**Stage I:** A written submission

**Stage II:** Oral presentation (for teams shortlisted from stage I)

**Eligibility:**

Current undergraduates of state universities (biology related streams)

Number of members per team - 04 undergraduates only

Number of teams per university: no limit

**Register online:** [www.iobsl.org](http://www.iobsl.org)

**Deadline for registration:** 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Deadline for written submission:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**Awards:**

**First place**

Rs.25,000

**Second place**

Rs.15,000

**Third place**

Rs.10,000

For more information visit IOBSL website ([www.iobsl.org](http://www.iobsl.org))

For further details please contact:

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**Institute of Biology | The leading professional body of biologists in Sri Lanka**



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## **GUIDELINES**

### **IOBSL Inter-University Biology Challenge**

**A team-based competition for undergraduates organized by the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka**

Theme for IOBSL Challenge 2020:

**“Sustainable solutions to face the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond”**

#### **Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has Sri Lanka and the whole world facing many repercussions in the environmental, economic, health and social spheres. The aftermath of this crisis will have the world facing a ‘new normal’. In the present transformative period we are already experiencing some of these changes and indeed challenges. The purpose of the competition is to tap into the minds of our young undergraduates to both identify and thereafter provide sustainable solutions to these challenges. The IOBSL will explore the possibility of providing further opportunities to develop the creative and impactful solutions.

Rationale:

The activity poses a ‘real life’ problem to undergraduates and encourages them to analyse the situation and identify the challenges that the ‘new normal’ will hold. As teams they will then attempt to envision viable solutions to face these challenges. Generic graduate attributes developed through this activity include; creativity, team work, analytical thinking, written and oral communication skills.

#### **Eligibility:**

Current State University undergraduates of biology related streams (if any discrepancies of student status are noted the team may be disqualified at any stage of the competition)

Number of members per team - 04 undergraduates only

Number of teams per university: no limit (however, one student can only represent one team)

#### **Mode of delivery:**

The competition will be held in an online mode and consists of 02 stages;

Stage I: A written submission – a white paper (teams will be shortlisted based on this)

Stage II: Shortlisted teams will present their white paper

#### **Registration process:**

Online registration form

Deadline to register teams – **29<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

#### **Awards:**

- First place: cash prize of Rs. 25,000 + trophy
- Second place: cash prize of Rs. 15,000
- Third place: cash prize of Rs. 10,000

Certificates awarded for all teams reaching Stage II of the challenge.



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### Time line for the competition



### Stage I: Guidelines for submission of white paper

Theme:

**“Sustainable solutions to face the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and beyond”**

The students are to prepare a submission to address the above by first identifying the possible challenges encountered. They will then address the identified challenge by suggesting sustainable solutions for it through a **white paper**\* format. The proposed solutions should fall within one or more of the following broad categories:

- Environment
- Medical and Healthcare
- Biodiversity conservation/Bioprospecting
- Education
- Agriculture and food security

Tying up with global goals such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals is advised.

\*A "white paper" is a written document sufficiently describing specific solutions proposed to solve an identified problem. The content of a white paper may or may not have experimental evidence, but the reader should be able to implement the given solution with the information given in the white paper.

Submit your white paper to [iobchallenge2020@gmail.com](mailto:iobchallenge2020@gmail.com) on or before **31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

### Evaluation criteria

Assessment of the white paper will be by a committee of academics and based upon:

- Alignment – how does the write-up address the challenge
- Innovative approach – how does the write-up differ from existing solutions
- Feasibility – Is implementation possible?
- Usefulness – Potential impact of proposed solutions particularly in a local context

The written submission will be assessed in a double blind review format.

Plagiarism in any mode will not be tolerated and may disqualify a team at any stage of the competition. The participants will also adhere to the other Rules and Regulations of the competition (<http://www.iobsl.org>).



**The white paper should be prepared according to the following guidelines**

- Length of content (without the reference list and title page): **not more than** 2000 words
- Page format: A4 (8.27" x 11.69")
- Font: Times New Roman, size: 12, line space: 1.5
- Header: Team name (right aligned, in italics)
- Footer: page number (right aligned)
- Title page:  
Title: Concise and informative. Times New Roman, size 12, bold letters, capital letters should be used only for the first letter in the first word of the title and proper nouns.  
Author details: author names, initials followed by the surname, present the affiliation address below the names  
Example:  
K. L. M. Perera, J. B. Silva, N. O. P. Dharmadasa  
Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna
- One diagram (if necessary) is allowed

The following sections should be included in the white paper:

- Title
- Background
- Problem definition
- Solutions
- Conclusion
- References
- References: Numerical method within the text and listed at the end.  
*Reference style*  
*Within the text:* Indicate references by (consecutive) superscript Arabic numerals in the order in which they appear in the text. The numerals are to be used *outside* periods and commas, *inside* colons and semicolons.  
*In reference list:* Number the references in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

***Examples:***

Reference to a journal publication:

1. Van der Geer J, Hanraads JAJ, Lupton RA. The art of writing a scientific article. *J Sci Commun*.2010;163:51–59.

Reference to a book:

2. Strunk W Jr, White EB. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York, NY: Longman; 2000.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

3. Mettam GR, Adams LB. How to prepare an electronic version of your article. In: Jones BS, Smith RZ, eds. *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. New York, NY: E-Publishing Inc; 2009:281–304.



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Reference to a website:

4. Cancer Research UK. Cancer statistics reports for the UK.

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/>; 2003 Accessed 13.03.03.

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] 5. Oguro, M, Imahiro, S, Saito, S, Nakashizuka, T. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions, Mendeley Data, v1; 2015.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

Journal abbreviations source:

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the *List of Title Word Abbreviations*.

<https://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/>

## **Stage II: Oral presentation**

Selected teams (from Stage I) will present their identified challenge and solutions to a judging panel. They will also field questions from the judging panel.

The teams will be assessed based on alignment to theme, novelty, feasibility and innovation.

The presentation will be based on the material in the submitted white paper and presented by the same team.

Presentation guidelines will be shared closer to the date.



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## **Rules and Regulations**

### **IOBSL Inter-University Biology Challenge 2020**

**A team-based competition for undergraduates organized by the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka**

1. All 04 team members must be current undergraduates at a state university (this will be verified and any discrepancy may lead to the disqualification of the team at any stage of the competition).
2. A university may have more than one team participating in the competition (but a student can be the member of only one team).
3. After registration, team members cannot be changed/replaced at any point in the competition.
4. The teams must adhere to the competition guidelines with regard to the deadline, general format, number of words, referencing in Stage I and if chosen for Stage II adhere to specific instructions regarding the oral presentation.
5. Written submissions must be original work of the team and all references must be clearly cited. Plagiarism in any form will lead to the disqualification of the team.
6. The submissions will be assessed based on their alignment, innovative approach, feasibility and usefulness by an independent judging panel. The written submission will be assessed in a double blind review format.
7. All correspondence related to the competition will be via email and the team is responsible to provide correct email addresses and follow up.
8. The decision of the judging panel is final and incontestable (for both Stage I and II).
9. The organizers assume no responsibility for computer related or network connection related errors or failures either technical or human in nature with regard to the team submissions.
10. The organizers reserve the right at any time during the competition to disqualify a team at its sole discretion if the said team has not adhered to the rules and regulations.
11. The winners consent that their names and photographs may be used in IOBSL related media such as, but not limited to the website, newsletter and social media.
12. Liability: The organizers of this competition shall not be liable for any loss or damage sustained by participants as a result of participating in the competition.