International Computer Science Competition

Pre-Final Round Information

Participants who successfully clear the Qualification Round are invited to the Pre-Final Round, which features more complex and engaging problems.

This round consists of six problems varying in difficulty, points, and topic:

- 2 Foundational Problems (4 points each): Building on core concepts, potentially involving algorithm analysis or design.

- 2 Advanced Problems (6 points each): Tackling more complex scenarios, possibly related to optimization, data structures, algorithmic implementations, or theoretical CS.

- 2 Research Problems (8 points each): Requiring engagement with contemporary problems in CS, such as from recent papers (e.g., in ML, NLP, algorithms), to understand concepts and answer related questions. This offers direct exposure to current scientific work.

The maximum score is 36 points. To qualify for the Final Round, participants must score at least 16 points (Junior), 20 points (Youth), or 24 points (Senior). Remember that clearly outlining your solution steps is crucial for all problems and contributes significantly to your score.

Registration and Costs

Successful Qualification Round participants can register for the Pre-Final Round via their account. Running a global competition involves costs for evaluation, infrastructure, and materials. While sponsors help, we vneed to ask participants to cover this year's Pre-Final Round registration costs of 11 EUR to make ICSC on an international level possible.

The registration costs are necessary to provide the resources required to run a competition at this scale, including human resources, and the evaluation process of the Pre-Final Round. There are no further participation costs at the competition.

To register for the Pre-Final Round, please log into your participant account.

Financial aid options are available for students facing economic hardship. For more information visit https://icscompetition.org/financialaid.

Pre-Final Round Registration Deadline

The registration deadline for the Pre-Final round is Tuesday, 14 October 2025.

Process and Submission

Qualified and registered participants will receive access to the Pre-Final Round problems via their online account on Thursday, 16 October 2025. You will have four days, until Sunday, 19 October 2025 (23:59 UTC+0), to work on the problems.

You will have to submit your solution online via a dedicated submission form. You can choose if you would like to submit the solution as a handwritten version or as a digitally typed document. Similarly to the Qualification Round, some problems might require you to write (pseudo) code. Please include any (pseudo) code as text on your solution document. The code must be written in pseudocode or in one of the following programming languages: Python, Java, C (C99), or C++. For programming problems, you can also optionally upload your executable code to qualify for a mention on our solution leaderboard.

Please highlight your final solution clearly and make sure to describe your reasoning for each problem. This includes coding problems: describe the core functionality of your code and use in-line comments to explain crucial parts of your program!

> **Result Announcement**
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> Pre-Final Round results will be announced on Monday, 3 November 2025 via email and the participant portal..