

International Computer Science Competition



Pre-Final Round Information

Participants who successfully clear the Qualification Round are invited to the Pre-Final Round: a supervised 60-minute online exam with three problems.

Problems and Points

The Pre-Final Round consists of three problems varying in difficulty and points:

- 1 Conceptual Problem (6 points): Building on core concepts from the Qualification Round, potentially involving algorithm analysis or design.
- 1 Coding Problem (6 points): Tackling a more complex scenario requiring implementation, possibly related to optimization, data structures, or algorithmic design.
- 1 Research Problem (8 points): Requiring engagement with a contemporary research paper in CS (e.g., in ML, NLP, algorithms) to understand concepts and answer related questions.

The maximum score is 20 points. To qualify for the Final Round, participants must score at least 9/13/17 points (Junior/Youth/Senior). Clearly explaining your reasoning and approach is essential for all problems and significantly affects your score.

Research Paper

On Wednesday, 12 August 2026, we release the research paper. All qualified and registered participants receive the paper via email and through their participant account. The paper is in English. Participants may use translation tools and AI to help understand it before the exam. During the exam, the paper is available in the exam interface (participants may not bring their own copy).

Process

The exam window is from Friday, 14 August 2026 to Sunday, 16 August 2026. You may take the 60-minute exam at any point during this window using a computer, laptop, or phone. The exam must be supervised by a teacher (recommended) or by ICSC using our online supervision system.

You write your solutions to the conceptual and research problems on paper. The coding problem is solved using the online code editor in the exam interface. After the exam ends, you have 10 minutes to scan and upload any handwritten solutions.

Students may bring blank paper (maximum twenty sheets) and pens (maximum three) for writing their solutions.

Result Announcement

Pre-Final Round results will be announced on Monday, 31 August 2026 via email and the participant portal.

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 need to ask participants to cover this year's Pre-Final Round registration costs of 15 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, 11 August 2026.