

GENIUS OLYMPIAD APPLICATION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- **GENIUS Olympiad is open to students in grades 8-12** (or the equivalent) from any country. Students may apply directly to International GENIUS Olympiad (IGO) or be selected through a regional STEM Fair. If your country hosts a National GENIUS Olympiad (NGO), you must apply there to be selected as a finalist (check our website for the NGO country list).
- **Students younger than 18 must have an adult chaperone** (teacher, parent, or relative). Students who are 18 or older and still in high school can participate without a chaperone.
- **The minimum age for participation is 13 years old.** Even if your project is selected, you cannot participate if you are younger than 13.
- Individuals may create an application account to submit projects. If multiple projects come from one school, it is best to submit them through a single account. GENIUS Olympiad may combine multiple accounts from the same school into one.
- The same projects can NOT be submitted in two years in a row without significant improvement or changes.
- Projects submitted to other competitions can be submitted to GENIUS Olympiad without changes.
- Applications (including those from affiliated US/EU regional fair winners) must be completed through GENIUS Olympiad application system by the deadline and must include the application fee payment.
- **Students must present their projects in English** without using any translators.
- Projects must be presented in-person. Virtual presentations are not allowed.
- Participants may leave once the judging session is over.
- **A Chaperone** is an adult (teacher, parent, adult sibling, or relative), responsible for the minor student and also has the right to accompany. Chaperone Gender requirement: When a chaperone is not a parent or legal guardian of the student(s), the chaperone must be the same gender as the student(s) they supervise. For mixed-gender student groups without relative chaperones, a minimum of two chaperones is required—one male and one female. Chaperones must stay with their student at all times during the Olympiad, except judging. The number of chaperones is limited: one chaperone per every six students (unless required by chaperone gender requirement). Two chaperones are allowed for groups of 7-12 finalist students from one school/organization.
- **A Guest** is any extra person accompanying student beyond the allowed chaperone limit (such as siblings, additional parent, extra teachers, or relatives). Guests may attend if space permits. When both parents would like to attend with their students, one parent may register as chaperone and second parent may register as guests.

DEADLINES & FEES & REFUNDS

- All applications are made online through our website.
- General Project Application Deadline: **March 1** (except US/EU affiliated regional fair winners).
- Application deadline for students selected by US regional or national fairs AND who don't need US Visa: **April 20**.
- IGO Finalists Announcement: **March 25** (posted on our website and status updated within application accounts).
- Visa letters are available within your account. The final participation registration deadline is **May 10**.

Fee Type	Fees	Refunds: by May 10	by June 1	after June 1
Application Fee	\$60	None	None	None
Student/Chaperone Participation Fee	\$600	Full minus \$75	75%	None
Guest Participation Fee	\$600 or \$900	Full minus \$75	75%	50%
Trip Fee	\$695, \$845, \$945, \$1,095	Full minus \$75	75%	None
JFK Airport Bus Fee	\$100 – one way	Full	75%	None
Rochester Airport Bus Fee	Free-Registration is required	None	None	None

FEES

- **The application fee: \$60 per project (not refundable).** The application fee must be paid before the application deadline to complete your application. All applicants, including affiliated US/EU regional fair certificate holders, must pay the application fee. Projects without an application fee will not be reviewed.
- **The student and chaperone participation fee: \$600 per person; \$75 of this fee is not refundable under any circumstances.** The full payment is due by May 10 to confirm your participation June 1 and receive visa invitation letter. **Refund Policy:** Only 75% of the fee is refundable between May 10 and, and **NO refunds after June 1.** Reduced fee of \$450 per participant, if you prefer hotel accommodation instead of university dorms, participants must arrange their own hotel arrangements and payment. In this case, you will receive all other services.
- **The Guest participation fee: \$900 per guest; \$75 of it is non-refundable under any circumstances.** Guest fees must be paid during participant registration. **Refund Policy:** Only 75% of the fee is refundable between May 10 and June 1, and only 50% of the fee is refundable after June 1. **Reduced fee of \$600** if guests prefer to stay at a hotel instead of university dorms (they will pay for the hotel and make their own arrangements).
- **Included with Participation Fee:** a- Event management and activities, b- Registration package (T-shirt, bag, water bottle), c- Digital participation certificates- available to download in your application account once the events is over, d- Accommodations in University dorms (unless you choose to stay in hotel for a reduced fee), e- Meals on campus at select dining hall (except dinner on Niagara falls day), f- Niagara Falls trip (90 min away), including Maid of the Mist Boat tour, e- Rochester airport Shuttle (requires registration). Note that **travel expenses to/from the GENIUS Olympiad event campus are participants' responsibility.** GENIUS will provide JFK airport pick-up and drop-off services for an additional fee for those who requests such services at their registration.
- **Optional trips ([for more information](#)):** GENIUS offers four trips starting after GENIUS Olympiad: **1- DC/NY City (\$695, 3 nights&2 days), 2-Extended DC/NY City (\$845, 4 nights&3 days), 3-Boston/NY City (\$945, 4 nights&3 days), 4- Extended Boston/NY City (\$1,095, 5 nights&4 days).** Chaperones will receive a 10% discount for every attending student/guest. Trip registration and payments are made within the application site during participant registration. **Refund Policy:** a- Full refund minus \$75 by May 10, b- 75% refundable between May 10 and June 1, c- No refunds after June 1. Trip participants will be dropped off at JFK airports.
- **JFK Airport Pick up and Drop Off Fee: \$100 (one-way) per person (not refundable).** JFK Airport pick-up service at a specific airport terminal on the arrival day of the Olympiad to bring you to campus (it is a 6-7 hours drive). JFK Airport drop-off bus will leave from GENIUS Olympiad site after dinner at **9.30 pm on Friday**, and will drop you off at airport early morning of Saturday. See [Finalist Guide](#)
- **Rochester Airport pick-up and drop-off fee: Free but REQUIRES Registration.** See [Finalist Guide](#)
- **All Fees paid online using a credit card** during application and registration within the application site.

GENERAL RULES

- All events take place at St John Fisher university campus, except the Niagara Falls trip.
- The GENIUS Judging Committee has the right to reject any project without giving a reason.
- International chaperones may not serve as a judge. US chaperones may serve as judge, if needed.
- Applicants who do not submit the required project information correctly and on-time shall be disqualified.
- In all aspects of the projects, participants must maintain integrity.
- Participants must avoid dishonesty, cheating, such as falsifying data, stealing ideas, or plagiarism (presenting another person's work as one's own).
- All students must follow GENIUS Olympiad rules. Participants who break the rules may be disqualified and asked to leave without a refund.
- By attending GENIUS Olympiad, all participants agree to follow all the rules and agreements explained in the [finalist guide](#) posted on our website.

LIMITATIONS ON STUDENTS, CHAPERONES, & PROJECTS

- **Each student may present only one project.** If selected as a finalist for multiple projects, the applicant must choose one project to present.
- Students may apply with multiple projects in any discipline to increase their chance of acceptance but will be selected as a finalist for only one project.
- Science, business, coding, AI, or short film project may be submitted and presented by **up to two (2) students**.
- Speech, art, music singer or solo projects may be submitted and presented by **only one (1) student**.
- Robotics or music group projects may be submitted and presented by **up to three (3) students**.
- Schools or organizations may submit as many projects as they wish, there is no limit.
- There is no limit to how many projects from one school can become finalists.
- Only one adult will be recognized as chaperone for up to 6 student participants (or two chaperones for up to 12 students, etc.). Additional adults may join only as guests and must pay the guest fee.
- Chaperone Gender requirement: When a chaperone is not a parent or legal guardian of the student(s), the chaperone must be the same gender as the student(s) they supervise. For mixed-gender student groups without relative chaperones, a minimum of two chaperones is required—one male and one female.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit your project applications and register participants through our online system. You can submit multiple projects under one account.
- Check [the Schedule](#) for the important deadlines and draft events.
- All applicants (including regional STEM fair winners) **MUST** complete an online application by the deadline.
- After finalists are announced, you **MUST** confirm your participation by registering each participant (student, chaperone, guest) before the participation deadline.
- **International applicants** should complete the participation registration and fee payment as soon as possible to receive their invitation letters for visa application. Invitation letters will be available to download and print in your online accounts after participation fee payment is made.



- 1- All students from US or from countries where there is no National Genius Olympiad (NGO) must apply directly to International Genius Olympiad (IGO) website. If your project is selected by a regional STEM fair for IGO, you must still apply via IGO website.
- 2- Students must apply to their NGO, if available. For more information on NGO country list, visit our website.
- 3- These are optional trips subject to additional fee. More information about trips options and fees, visit our website.

CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

For Category specific rules for application and the project examples please click on the category: [AI](#), [ART](#), [Coding](#), [Entrepreneurship](#), [Music](#), [Robotics](#), [STEM](#), [Short Film](#), [Speech](#).

[FINALIST GUIDE](#) provides information and rules for finalists who will attend the event regarding arrival, accommodations, dining, dressing, and other rules.