



the World Scholar's Cup®

A GUIDEBOOK TO THE PROGRAM



The World Scholar's Cup is an international academic tournament and enrichment program, conducted in over 60 countries around the world with over 50,000 participants each year. It is being conducted in India since 2012 and has spread to over 10 cities with over 5000 participants each year from some of the leading schools in the country.



ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all students between the ages of 12 to 18. Students must participate in teams of three and there are two divisions. The Junior Division is for students between the ages of 12-14 and the Senior Division is for students between the ages of 15-18.

Teams can be made up of students from the same school but teams with students from different schools are also permitted as independent teams. There is no limit to the number of teams that can participate from each school.

HOW TO PREPARE?

Each year, teams from all over the world explore and debate a current global theme. Within the specified theme, students explore specially-selected topics in Science & Technology, Art & Music, Literature, History, Social Studies and a Special Area. More information about the theme and the subjects can be obtained on the WSC website at <http://www.scholarscup.org/subjects/>

The theme and topics change each year. Usually, the new theme is announced in November and the details of the topics become available the following January.

Students usually spend 4 – 8 weeks researching the topics either on their own or with assistance from their teachers at school. Some schools form a World Scholar's Club that meets on a weekly basis. Along with researching the topics, students practice key skills such as debating and writing with their teams, often under the guidance of their parents or teachers.

VALUES AND VISION

The idea behind the World Scholar's Cup was to create something different than traditional academic competitions and conferences: a celebration of the joy of learning, a tournament as rewarding for the team that came in last as for the team that came in first, an enrichment opportunity that motivated students not just to demonstrate their existing strengths but to discover new ones.

THE WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP IS:

- Inclusive
- Encouraging
- Interdisciplinary
- Discussion-based
- Forward-looking
- Team-oriented
- Whimsical

OUR GOALS

- To motivate students of all backgrounds to discover new strengths and practice new skills.
- To inspire a global community of future scholars and leaders.

SKILLS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPS

- Public Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Research
- Collaboration

WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP EVENTS

Every World Scholar's Cup round has four main events: **Team Debate**, **Collaborative Writing**, **Scholar's Bowl** and **Scholar's Challenge**. All scholars must take part in all four events.



TEAM DEBATE

Debate is a chance for the participants to apply everything they have learned as a team to make the most persuasive case possible. Each team debates three times against three teams from three other schools or countries. The format is meant to challenge new and experienced debaters alike.

Debate motions come from all subject areas, scholars may be debating questions of global policy or the meaning of a poem. No internet, devices or any other materials are permitted for the Team Debate. The hope is for scholars to build skills in crafting arguments, critical thinking, and teamwork. Each scholar speaks for up to four minutes. After each round, teams give one another constructive feedback. Winning teams then go on to face other winners and non-winning teams go on to face other non-winners.



SCORING CRITERIA

Each speaker is given scores for the following:

Speaking - Clarity of speech, variation of tone, good use of notes, decisiveness.

Presence - Confidence, making eye contact, poise, politeness.

Organization - Organization of arguments, the flow of ideas, good use of time.

Rhetoric - Use of persuasive language and figures of speech.

Evidence - Reasons to believe arguments, facts and figures.

Rebuttals and Prebuttals - Evidence against opposing team's arguments, defense against counterarguments, fending off possible rebuttals.

Each team is given a score for the following:

Teamwork - Cohesiveness and behaviour.

Feedback - Helpfulness and respectfulness



COLLABORATIVE WRITING

Scholars are given three topics, and they can choose any one topic to write on. Their teammates must choose some other topics. Scholars can write a traditional-style essay or a creative piece. They have 20 minutes to research and brainstorm with their teammates to come up with compelling content. Access to books, notes or the internet is not permitted during the research time. Scholars are then given 40 minutes on their own to write their piece, followed by 15 final minutes to help one another perfect their work.

SCORING CRITERIA

Each scholar is assigned a score based on the following criteria:

Clarity

- Did the writer understand the topic and help the reader understand it too?
- How easy was the piece to read and understand?
- Did the piece have a proper introduction, body, and conclusion?
- A minimal number of grammatical, spelling, and syntax errors.

Content

- Were the ideas and facts presented relevant and thought-provoking?
- Did the conclusions drawn from the content make sense?
- Did the writer effectively draw on knowledge of the World Scholar's Cup subjects?

Style

- Did the paper's style and use of language make it more engaging?
- Was the writer's vocabulary varied and vibrant?
- Did the writer seem excited to be writing the paper? Was it enjoyable to read?

Originality

- Did the paper provide a unique perspective on the topic?
- Did the writer have a memorable voice or approach?

SCHOLAR'S BOWL

In the Scholar's Bowl, all teams gather in a theatre/hall and are equipped with interactive clicker devices. The host presents a series of tough creative and multimedia challenges on various topics, each harder and worth more points than the one before it. The challenges are multiple-choice questions that are displayed on a large screen and the teams must provide their answers through a clicker that connects to a scoring computer on stage. Fifteen seconds are given to solve each one. All teams have a chance to solve every problem and submit their answers before time runs out—one exciting enigma at a time.

SCHOLAR'S CHALLENGE

The Scholar's Challenge is a multiple-choice exam given to each individual competitor to complete within 60 minutes. The Scholar's Challenge isn't a test of what the participants remember: it's a test of what they understand. It is not like any other multiple-choice test, but it demonstrates mastery of the different subjects. 20 questions are drawn from each of the 6 topics related to the theme. 120 questions in total. Scholars can mark more than one answer per question. The fewer they mark, the more points they can earn if they are right. Scholars can earn recognition in every World Scholar's Cup subject. Winners are awarded medals and there are winners declared for each subject.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Individual students are awarded based on their performance in Debate, Collaborative Writing, and the Scholar's Challenge. Teams are awarded based on the cumulative performance of the members in Debate, Collaborative Writing, the Scholar's Challenge, and the Scholar's Bowl. Awards include gold and silver medals, and trophies. Each scholar also receives a digital certificate. Top-performing teams in each regional round qualify for the Global Round. Additionally, teams that score above a Global threshold also qualify to participate in the Global Round. Top teams at the Global Rounds earn berths to participate in the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in the United States.



SOCIAL EVENTS AT THE REGIONAL ROUNDS



Scholar's Show

The Scholar's Show is an optional talent show, a chance for students to share something with the Scholar's Cup community, even if they are not experienced performers.

Debate Showcase

The top individual debaters, selected by the judges, are formed into mixed teams to compete on stage in front of the entire audience. The panel of judges also includes scholars nominated by the debate judges.

LOCATIONS

The World Scholar's Cup is conducted in over 60 countries across the world. In India, it is conducted in Mumbai, Delhi, Gurgaon, Bangalore, Chennai, Dehradun, Ajmer, Kanpur, Ghaziabad, Pune, Noida, Jaipur, and Chandigarh. We are working on bringing it to more cities in India.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Duration: Regional rounds are usually conducted over two days.

Age Group: 12 years to 14 years in the junior division. 15 years to 18 years in the senior division.

Dates: Please check the calendar on www.scholarscup.org

Team Size: 3 students per team. No limit on the number of teams for each school.



THE GLOBAL ROUND

The top 10 teams in each division at each Regional Round earn automatic invitations to the annual Global Rounds. In addition, all teams that score above a global threshold score also qualify. Each year, around six Global Rounds are organized in different parts of the world, bringing together thousands of scholars for five days of learning, competition, and community-building. Students experience scavenger hunts, keynote speeches, panel discussions, a Scholar's Ball, Scholar's Show, Scholar's Cultural Fair, and, of course, all the competitive and community-building events that drew them to the World Scholar's Cup in the first place, from the Debate Showcase to the Scholar's Bowl. Every participant returns with new friends, new discoveries, and very large alpacas.



ADDITIONAL SOCIAL EVENTS AT GLOBAL ROUNDS

Scholar's Scavenge

Scholars will be teamed up with fellow scholars from other countries to undertake a series of quirky challenges. It's a great chance to make new friends from around the world.

Scholar's Cultural Fair

A celebration of our diversity of origins in which schools can set up booths representing their countries. There will be food, performances, demonstrations, and more, reminding you how our world is full of friendship, diversity, and delight.

Scholar's Ball

Scholars have an opportunity to dance with their newfound friends from across the world and socialize.



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The Tournament of Champions brings together the best of the World Scholar's Cup with Yale University, one of the leading universities in the world, at New Haven, USA.

Top-performing teams from each Global Round are invited to participate in this prestigious event, hosted by the Yale International Relations Association at Yale University. Students have the chance to interact with and learn directly from Yale students and faculty. They attend a special panel on college admissions and on how to leverage their World Scholar's Cup experience as part of their admissions portfolio.

Scholars eat Yale cafeteria food and meet celebrated keynote speakers and they come away knowing what it's like to be a student at one of the world's greatest universities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PARTICIPATION

Who can participate?

Schools can field unlimited teams at regional rounds. Any given team can only participate at one regional round per season. Teams that qualify at regional rounds can participate at their choice of Global Rounds.

What type of student participates?

The World Scholar's Cup isn't just for the "top" three students at each school; it's meant to reach deep into the student population, inspiring a love of learning and introducing participants to new subjects and skills.

What are costs of participation?

The World Scholar's Cup is a not-for-profit organization. There is usually a small tournament fee that varies by round to help cover tournament expenses, including bringing our staff out to manage the event. We always provide meals as part of that fee.

Is the World Scholar's Cup too much work for students who are already busy?

We designed the World Scholar's Cup knowing how many commitments students already need to juggle. Most teams prepare for two to eight weeks for a round, and split topics between team members.

Are there any printed guidelines / coaching sessions available for download?

No. Each scholar is encouraged to read up on their own and with their team and take the help of teachers at school. The syllabus for the six subject areas is provided by the World Scholar's Cup. Emphasis is on application learning, not on memorizing or rote learning.

Are there any coaching sessions available for debate preparation – classroom or on web?

There are lots of examples of good debates on YouTube. Search for World Scholar's Cup Debate. Also, join the WSC Facebook community to get tips and share notes with fellow scholars from around the world.

How do I benefit from participating in the World Scholar's Cup?

1. Enhancement of skills like public speaking, critical thinking, research and collaboration, and motivation for discovering new strengths and practicing many other new skills.
2. Inspires a global community of future scholars and leaders by giving an experience of learning with fun with thousands of students and the WSC Team.
3. Interaction with students from across the world. Friendships during and even after the event through social media.
4. Experience of working around a theme and studying a syllabus with ease as well as intensity.
5. Going beyond book learning and experiencing application based learning.
6. Personality development with active participation in debating, quizzing and writing together on one single platform.
7. Encouragement for first timers to hone their debating, quizzing and writing skills.
8. Being awarded certificates, trophies and medals generously for all good performances and encouragement for future participation in similar activities.
9. Experiencing community activities like Debate Showcase, Scholar's Show, Scholar's Scavenge, Scholar's Cultural Fair and Scholar's Ball, all of which do not carry points and are non-competitive, along with team activities, which do carry points that are competitive.
10. Coming back from the event with lifetime memories of a grand, special and one of a kind educational event, a large furry alpaca - the mascot of the event and a positive experience which can help with future university admissions and add value to your admissions portfolio.



TEAMS

What if I don't have a teammate?

Students may also register individually and ask to be joined with other scholars looking for teammates.

Do all members of a team need to be from the same school?

Not at all! You can form mixed teams with students from other schools or countries. It is not as common, but can be a great opportunity to get to know students outside your school.

How should we register a team with students from different schools?

There is a field on the registration form to indicate if someone is from another school, but if you are registering separately, please let us know in the text of the email who the other teammates are.

What are the divisions?

The junior division includes students up to 14 years old; though there is no bottom cut-off, most participants are at least 12. The senior division is for students 15 and older.

Do teams need coaches or teachers-in-charge?

Most schools have a program advisor or teacher who helps teams plan and prepare for tournaments. However, the program is mostly student-driven, and at many schools there is no specific 'club advisor', just a chaperone who accompanies teams to events.

What if I don't have three members on my team?

Two-member teams are welcome to compete, but can score a maximum of 33,500 instead of 40,000 points and are extremely unlikely to win team recognition in Collaborative Writing, the Scholar's Challenge, or Team Debate, as they will be missing one third of their scores in each of these events. They are on equal footing for Team Bowl, as well as all individual awards. As the World Scholar's Cup is built around teams of three, two-person teams will be required to reach the same threshold as three-person teams to receive berths to the Global Round and the Tournament of Champions. If you are in search of someone to complete your team, please let us know, and we'll try to help you find someone.

What are the maximum team points for the World Scholar's Cup events?

Team Debate - 10,500 points
 Scholar's Bowl - 10,000 points
 Collaborative Writing - 7,500 points
 Scholar's Challenge - 12,000 points
 Total - 40,000 points

How many team points does a team need to have to qualify for a Global Round after participating in a Regional Round?

20,000 points is the threshold.

I have formed a team of three students. Is the scoring done for every individual or as a team?

Scoring is done on an individual level as well as a team.



TOURNAMENTS

When is it?

Regional rounds take place around the world throughout the year. For now, Global Rounds are held from June to October each year. The Tournament of Champions at Yale University is in November. Additional rounds are announced frequently on our calendar page.

What are the Team Events?

In Team Debate, you'll face teams from other schools and countries, three-on-three, and argue motions related to the theme.

In Scholar's Bowl, your team will race the clock to answer questions using a special clicker.

In Collaborative Writing, you'll work with your team to argue positions related to the theme in written form.

In Scholar's Challenge, you'll take a test called the Scholar's Challenge: an opportunity to win individual medals and other prizes across multiple subjects.

What are community-building activities that take place at each round?

In the Scholar's Scavenge, you'll work with up to 14 students from 14 other countries to solve a series of clues and take an ever wackier series of photos.

In the Debate Showcase, the top debaters from different countries are formed into new teams that quickly learn to work and debate together in front of the whole community.

In the Scholar's Talent Show, you'll perform whatever you'd like, whether you're a professional dancer or a mathematical constant reciter.

In the Scholar's Ball, you'll have the chance to dance together to high-powered music, even if you have no idea how.

In the Scholar's Cultural Fair, you'll share your culture and traditions with other scholars from around the world. At the Keynote Address and Panels, you'll meet knowledgeable guest speakers from some of the world's leading firms and universities, and then challenge them with your own questions and thoughts.

How do we access our participation certificates and/or invitation letters?

We email all certificates and invitation letters to your delegation contact person after each round. This is the name listed on your registration form, and is typically your teacher. Please ask them for your certificate. If you are a delegation leader and you have not received such an email, please let us know at contact@scholarscup.org.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

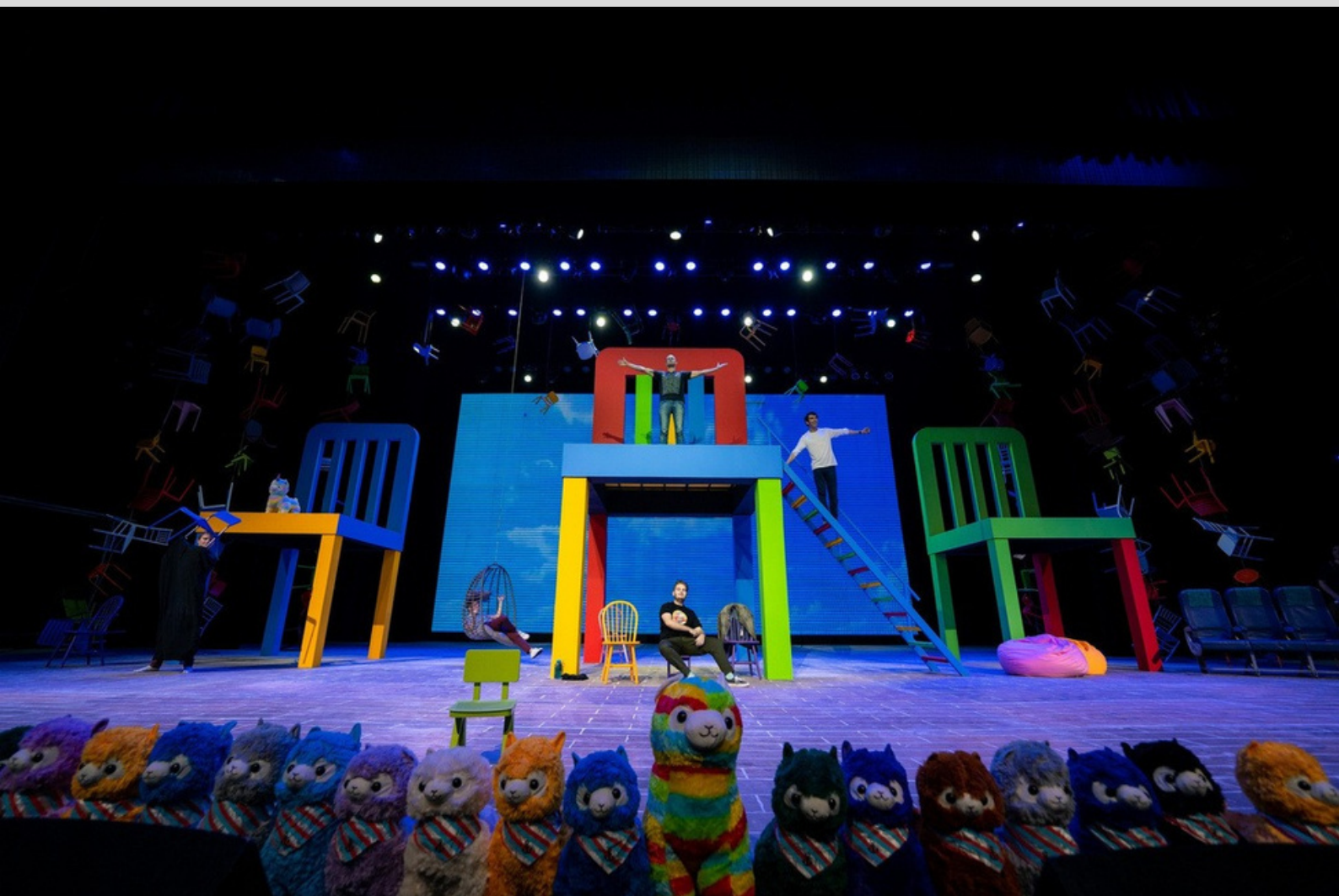
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WSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The World Scholar's Cup community comes together in person at regional and global events, but it lives and breathes all year long on the Internet. Wherever you are, here are a few ways to stay connected to the World Scholar's Cup team and other scholars all year long:

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/scholarscup/>

Follow us on X:

<https://x.com/scholarscup>

Follow us on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-scholars-cup>

Follow us on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/scholarscup>

<https://www.instagram.com/wscind>