

Form for NBO description and IBO team selection procedure

1. Country	IRELAND
2. Name	Irish Science Olympiad - BIOLOGY
3. Established	1998
4. Logo	General ISO logo
5. Posters	no
6. Website URL	http://www.dcu.ie/olympiads/ Under review
7. Olympiad promotion (among schools, teachers, press, ...)	<p>Each September every second level school in Ireland get a letter from DCU (Michael A. Cotter) asking them to identify their best students from the state examination who are under 16 year and under 17 years of age. These students compete in the Irish JSO and the Irish EUSO and are put into a database for the senior Irish Science Olympiads (including BIOLOGY) in future years. Each December, every second lever school in the Republic of Ireland (750) and Northern Ireland (250) are invited to select student to participate in the ISO in January. From a list of finalists of approximately 100, Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to different categorise of students. Twenty are selected to the IBO panel. These receive addition online and correspondence training and the finals selection of the IBO team takes place at Easter. The four-member team attend a weeklong intensive residential training programme on the IBO syllabus devised by Professor Richard O Kennedy prior to their departure to the IBO.</p> <p>Press releases, reports and photos of all medals winners are sent to local and national newspapers, local and national radios, TV and other media outlets, science journals, school websites. Coverage is vast and constant throughout the year. Individual schools also publicise their own student's achievements. The DCU website also published reports with photos.</p>
8. Organization structure, categories and rounds	Under 16, under 17, finals year in second level school. See 7 above for description
9. Tests	The tests are written/theory only. The 20 panel IBO panel members are also given a practical test.
10. Student training	The four-member team attend a weeklong intensive residential training programme on the IBO syllabus devised by Professor Richard O Kennedy prior to their departure to the IBO.
11. Study materials	Kept in DCU.
12. Awarding of students, prizes	National gold, silver and bronze medals. IBO Medal winners also receive university scholarships.
13. Media coverage	See 7 above

14. Financial support / resources	Confidential
15. Support of Min. of Education	Yes
16. National Competition Rules	<p>Irish Biology Olympiad</p> <p>The Irish Biology Olympiad is open to second-level students from the Republic of Ireland and from Northern Ireland. It is held annually at DCU on the last Saturday January.</p> <p>National winners receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold, Silver & Bronze All Ireland Science Olympiad Medals • Represent Ireland at one of the International Science Olympiads in July / August <p>International winners receive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Scholarship worth up to €2,500 <p>How to Enter</p> <p>The Principal or Science Teacher is asked to nominate the most enthusiastic and keenest students in the school in Biology. These students are in addition to the students from the school who may have received a personal invitation based on the Junior Certificate examinations results.</p> <p>The Biology Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be sitting the Leaving Certificate Examination • Should be expected to get an A1 in Biology in the Leaving Certificate • Must fill in the Application Form and return to DCU <p>The Students</p> <p>The selected students are invited to take part in a test in DCU. Certificates are given to all participants. Two gold, four silver and four bronze medals will be awarded to the top students.</p> <p>These students must have agreed in advance, if selected, to participate fully in the International Biology Olympiad and all aspects of the IBO training programme. The four member Irish International Biology Olympiad are selected from a panel of twenty students.</p> <p>Gold medal winners at the International Olympiads also receive a €2,500 University scholarship, silver medal winners will receive €1,250 and bronze medal winners will receive €750.</p> <p><i>Biology Olympiad Chairperson</i> Prof. Richard O Kennedy</p> <p>http://www.dcu.ie/olympiads</p>
17. Selection procedure for IBO competition	See 7 above
18. National committee	The Irish IBO Chairperson is Prof. Richard O Kennedy since 1998. He selects his team each year from the staff of the School of

(presidents by periods)	Biotechnology and post graduate students.	
19. Working groups	no	
20. Participating in IBO, observer, participant, organizer	Ireland has participated every year since 1998. The names of the Irish leaders, observers participants is sent to the IBO each year.	
21. IBO coordinator (name address, email)	Michael A. Cotter, School of Education studies, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. IRELAND. michael.cotter@dcu.ie http://webpages.dcu.ie/~cotterm/	
22. Statistics over the years	IRELAND International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 1998 – 2008 Irish Teams & Medal Winners Attached	
23. Standard school year	From (month): September	To (month):June
24. Biology hours/week at school	Minimum (common for students going for the NBO): 3 hour	Maximum (common for students going for the NBO): 3 hours
25. References	N/A	