

Imagine Cup Junior Evolution

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information for Education Customers and Organizations:

Question: What's changing with the Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior (ICJ) AI for Good competition?

Answer: Microsoft is evolving ICJ and launching ICJ In-a-Box as a downloadable resource for you to use to run country/region-wide, district-wide, school-wide, or classroom competitions. ICJ In-a-Box includes classroom lessons, educator guidance, judging rubric details and student materials around technology including Generative AI and hands-on activities.

Question: What prompted this change?

Answer: We have heard from many educators and education leaders around the world that a more flexible approach to ICJ would help expand the opportunity for all students to learn more about these technologies and increase participation.

Question: Why would I want to use the ICJ In-a-Box materials?

Answer: Utilizing the ICJ In-a-Box materials is a simple and easy way for educators to teach AI technology concepts to students using engaging lessons and hands-on activities. This flexible, agile, and accessible approach is a great way to encourage all students to participate, use their creativity, and practice teamwork and cooperation with their peers to create technology concepts to solve global and local problems.

Question: When will ICJ In-a-Box be available?

Answer: ICJ In-a-Box is available to download from the [Imagine Cup Junior](#) website.

Question: Can I run an ICJ competition directly or can a Microsoft Partner assist?

Answer: Yes, we've designed the materials to make it easy to run an ICJ competition directly or by enlisting a [Microsoft Global Training Partner](#) (GTP).

Question: What languages will the ICJ In-a-Box lessons be available?

Answer: ICJ In-a-Box lessons are available to download from the [Imagine Cup Junior](#) website in Arabic, English, French, Simplified Chinese, and Spanish.

Question: Are there any limitations to using the ICJ In-a-Box materials?

Answer: You may use the ICJ In-a-Box materials for any public or private school, not-for-profit student learning, but may not charge additional fees for anyone to use the materials.

Question: Can I rebrand the ICJ In-a-Box materials?

Answer: You are welcome to add your school or organization name along with the Imagine Cup Junior branding to the ICJ In-a-Box materials, but you may not remove the Imagine Cup Junior branding or name.

Question: Can I integrate the ICJ In-a-Box materials into my curriculum?

Answer: Yes, you are welcome to use the materials to facilitate learning and the ICJ In-a-box are intended for integration with academic programs or stand-alone education initiatives across K-12.

Question: If educators would like to just use the AI for Good curriculum modules from Imagine Cup Junior without a competition is that an option? Are there limitations for use of the content with students?

Answer: Yes, we've heard from educators that one of the best parts about ICJ is the curriculum and topics for the classroom. Educators may use the AI for Good curriculum modules in any learning environment, it doesn't have to be tied to an ICJ competition.

Question: Are there age restrictions regarding student access to the materials?

Answer: No. ICJ is created with lessons and activities recommended to target students ages 13-18. However, there are no restrictions if a school or educator chooses to integrate materials with educational programs reaching additional ages of students.

Question: Can the ICJ In-a-Box materials be used outside of an education setting?

Answer: Yes, the ICJ In-a-Box materials can be used in any learning environment (e.g., non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, workforce development organizations).

Question: Can educators or GTPs share the ICJ In-a-Box package and related materials with non-education organizations (e.g., community organizations, non-profit agencies, workforce training programs, etc.)?

Answer: Yes, the ICJ In-a-Box package and related materials may be shared with non-education organizations.

Question: What are the basics of running an Imagine Cup Junior using the ICJ In-a-Box materials?

Answer: Participation in ICJ for students is facilitated by a Team Leader, who must be an adult over the age of 18, such as an educator, instructor, staff member, parent, or guardian.

The Team Leader manages the competition on behalf of the students and uses the ICJ In-a-Box resources to support learning and the challenge. Multiple educators may assist in running the competitions within classrooms and schools, following the Team Leader's instructions from start to finish. Students participating are between 13 and 18 years old, and teams usually consist of 2-6 students each.

Question: Is there a judging rubric available when evaluating the student projects?

Answer: Yes, we have created a Student Project Evaluation Rubric that provides a structured framework for assessing student projects based on key criteria. That rubric is being shared as part of ICJ In-a-box. The rubric ensures a fair and consistent evaluation process by focusing on the following areas:

1. **Innovation:** How original is the AI concept?
2. **Artificial Intelligence:** How strong are the AI concepts presented? Does the team specify the type of AI and which APIs were leveraged in their concept?
3. **Impact:** What is the potential quantity and quality of impact for the world in one of the [AI for Good categories](#)?
4. **Creativity:** How creatively was the idea presented?
5. **Ethics:** How does the AI align to the Microsoft AI for Good Ethical Principles?
6. **Cybersecurity:** How has the team planned to reduce cyber security risks?

Judges can use this rubric to guide project evaluations and provide meaningful feedback to students, helping them improve their skills and achieve their educational goals.

Question: Is there a recommended number of students per team?

Answer: Based on experience, we recommend teams of 2-6 students each, but the number of students per team is up to the discretion of the ICJ organizers in each instance.

Question: Is there a cost to leverage or use the ICJ In-a-box materials?

Answer: No, there is no cost to using the ICJ In-a-box materials.

Question: What is the history behind Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior?

Answer: Microsoft Imagine Cup Junior (ICJ) has been running as a global student competition for the past 6 years. Built on the success of Microsoft Imagine Cup over more than two decades, ICJ has been an opportunity for students ages 13-18 years old to learn about AI skills and technology and dream up ways AI can be used to solve global and local problems. Through a PowerPoint submission template and video recording, student teams have illustrated and shared their ideas to compete in a global competition. Microsoft has

showcased these student projects to encourage classrooms and education systems worldwide to participate.

Question: Is anything changing with the Microsoft Imagine Cup for 2025?

Answer: There is no change to the **Microsoft Imagine Cup** global competition for student founders using AI technologies on the Microsoft Cloud and all are encouraged to share Imagine Cup 2025 as the premier global technology startup competition for students over the age of 18. **Imagine Cup 2025 competition season is now live.** [Learn more about the 2025 competition on the IC blog.](#) View marketing materials designed to help you promote this incredible opportunity with students at <https://aka.ms/ImagineCup2025StudentMaterials>.