



ICPC FACT SHEET

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The 2025 ICPC World Finals

The 49th Annual World Championship of the
ICPC International Collegiate Programming Contest

hosted by ADA University

Baku, Azerbaijan

August 31 - September 5, 2025

About the Contest – icpc.global

The ICPC International Collegiate Programming Contest is the premiere global programming competition conducted by and for the world's universities. The ICPC operates under the auspices of the ICPC Foundation, which hosts ICPC Global Headquarters. We spotlight the students, coaches, universities, industry, and communities working to advance prospects of prosperity through team-based, algorithmic, competitive programming.

For over four decades, the ICPC has grown to be a game-changing global competitive educational program that has raised aspirations and performance of generations of the world's problem solvers in the computing sciences and engineering. With over 400,000 alumni, the ICPC community spans the globe. This past season, ICPC Regionals, Workshops, Challenges, and outreach contests have hosted 73,083 students with 12,258 coaches and co-coaches at 3,424 universities in 103 countries. This season, eight continental-sized ICPC Region Championships advance teams to the World Finals.

The ICPC community purpose remains at the heart of the ICPC: to advance prospects for the next generation by bringing students together, working collaboratively to solve algorithmically challenging problems, and preparing them to build dependable systems that benefit their neighbors with the support of universities, industry, and community leaders, globally. With ICPC principles, “*Put people first.*”; “*Practice goodwill.*” and “*Follow the Golden Rule.*”, the doors are open to students from all universities to compete in ICPC regional competitions with the opportunity to advance to the ICPC World Finals. See the [ICPC Code of Ethics](#).

ICPC World Finals host institutions offer hospitality comparable to visiting grandma's house with special assistance to obtain passports and visas so that all who qualify may participate. The 49th ICPC World Finals in Baku, hosted by ADA University with host partner Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan, will continue nearly five decades of global participation, welcoming all who qualify. The ICPC's purpose remains to uplift each generation on the path of excellence to build systems that benefit their communities, together, globally.

ICPC World Finals sponsors bring industry support and talent to the competition. Huawei has sponsored many ICPC regional competitions for over 20 years and is currently serving as ICPC Diamond World Finals Sponsor, including powering the ICPC World Finals Challenge, which explores new, real-world problems. JetBrains, founded with ICPC alumni talent, serves as ICPC Global Programming Tools Sponsor providing support and programming tools for the ICPC World Finals and ICPC regional contests for nearly a decade.

In ICPC competitions, teams of three students represent their universities in multiple levels of regional competition. Volunteer coaches prepare their teams with intense training and instruction in algorithms, programming, and teamwork strategy. Several ICPC universities and ICPC volunteers provide online judging systems free of charge. Top teams from regional competitions held on six continents will advance to the annual ICPC World Championship held during the ICPC World Finals, hosted by ADA University on September 4, 2025, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan celebrates 20 years of ICPC university participation.

The ICPC traces its roots to a competition held at Texas A&M in 1970 hosted by the Alpha Chapter of the

UPE Computer Science Honor Society. The idea quickly gained popularity within the United States and Canada as an innovative initiative to raise the aspirations, performance, and opportunity of the top students in the emerging field of computer science.

The contest evolved into a multi-tier competition, with the first Finals held at the ACM Computer Science Conference in 1977. Operating under the auspices of the ICPC Foundation and headquartered at Baylor University from 1989 to 2021, the contest has expanded into a global network of universities hosting regional competitions that advance teams to the ICPC World Finals.

The contest fosters creativity, teamwork, and innovation in building new software programs and enables students to test their ability to perform under pressure. It is the world's oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contest and the root of competitive programming competitions.

The annual event comprises several levels of competition:

- Local Contests – Universities choose teams or hold local contests to select one or more teams to represent them at the next level of competition. Selection takes place from over 300,000 students in computing disciplines worldwide.
- This past season, ICPC Regionals, Workshops, Challenges, and outreach contests have hosted 73,083 students with 12,258 coaches and co-coaches at 3,424 universities in 103 countries.
- This season, eight ICPC Region Championships worldwide will advance teams to the World Finals. ICPC Regions are continental-sized and overlap. There are several covering Asia and the Pacific.
- World Finals – August 31 - September 5, 2025, in Baku, Azerbaijan – hosted by ADA University, the ICPC World Finalist teams compete for World Championship awards, prizes, and bragging rights. These teams represent the best of great universities on six continents - the cream of the crop.

Battle of the Brains

The contest pits teams of three university students against eight or more complex, real-world problems with a grueling five-hour deadline. Huddled around a single computer, competitors race against the clock in a battle of logic, strategy, and mental endurance.

Teammates collaborate to rank the difficulty of the problems, deduce the requirements, design test beds, and build software systems that solve the problems under the intense scrutiny of expert judges. For a well-versed computer science student, some problems only require precision. Others require knowledge and understanding of advanced algorithms. Still, others are simply too hard to solve – except for the world's brightest problem-solvers.

Judging is relentlessly strict. The students are given a problem statement – not a requirements document. They are given an example of test data but do not have access to the judges' test data and acceptance criteria. Each incorrect solution submitted is assessed a time penalty. You don't want to waste your customer's time when you are dealing with the supreme court of computing. The team that solves the most problems in the fewest attempts in the least cumulative time is declared the winner.

To learn more about the ICPC, please visit icpc.global.

For complete coverage of the World Finals, including social media, photos, video, live coverage, and live scoreboard, go to ICPCNews, news.icpc.global.

Contest Growth

The ICPC Foundation and UPE are thrilled that the contest continues to attract the best and brightest students worldwide. The ICPC student participation has increased by 2000% in 25 years. For more information on previous contests and last year's final standings and problem sets, please see icpc.global.

The 2025 ICPC World Finals in Baku, Azerbaijan, will host the 49th ICPC World Championship, the final round for the academic year 2024-25 ICPC Regionals.

Teams from regional contests servicing universities worldwide will advance to the annual World Championship Round of the ICPC World Finals hosted by ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan, and held August 31 - September 5, 2025, with the ICPC World Championship on September 4, 2025.

In order of finish, here are the recent medalists and highest honors teams:

<p>48th ICPC World Finals Astana 2024 Gold and Highest Honors Peking University Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology Tsinghua University Tokyo Institute of Technology</p> <p>2024 Silver and Highest Honors KAIST National University of Singapore Beijing Jiaotong University The University of Tokyo</p> <p>2024 Bronze and Highest Honors Seoul National University Zhejiang University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Swarthmore College</p>	<p>48th ICPC World Finals Astana Highest Honors ETH Zürich Harvard University Jagiellonian University in Krakow Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Kyoto University Sharif University of Technology St. Petersburg State University Universidad de Buenos Aires - FCEN University of Oxford University of Science and Technology of China University of Zagreb</p>
<p>47th ICPC World Finals Luxor 2023 Gold HSE University Peking University Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology Harbour.Space University - Barcelona Campus</p> <p>2023 Silver Tsinghua University Nanjing University Seoul National University University of Waterloo</p> <p>2023 Bronze The University of Tokyo Tokyo Institute of Technology Brigham Young University University of Warsaw Universidad de Buenos Aires - FCEN University of Cambridge National Taiwan University Xi'an Jiaotong University</p>	<p>46th ICPC World Finals Luxor 2022 Gold Peking University Massachusetts Institute of Technology HSE University University of Oxford</p> <p>2022 Silver Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology Seoul National University Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv University of Wisconsin-Madison</p> <p>2022 Bronze The University of Tokyo Tsinghua University Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications National Taiwan University</p>

About the ICPC Foundation

The ICPC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization founded to advance the art, sport, and science of competitive programming for the benefit of society. The ICPC International Collegiate Programming Contest operates under the ICPC Foundation, which is responsible for sponsorship, fundraising, outreach, and operational matters. The ICPC Foundation strives to provide ample opportunity to participate, to create a tier of regional championships to recognize far more star performers and showcase emerging talent, and to bring ICPC alumni together, assuring future generations paths of excellence to being great problem solvers. The ICPC Foundation offers programs such as ICPC-U and the ICPC University Commons, which create opportunities to pursue excellence in problem-solving together globally, especially available to all. For more information about the ICPC and the ICPC Foundation, visit icpc.foundation.

About Azerbaijan

Land of fires - Azerbaijan is a miraculous country in the South Caucasus. With its unlimited natural resources, centuries-old culture, and ancient history, the unique lifestyle presents a unique and harmonious combination of the traditions and ceremonies of different cultures and civilizations.

About Baku

Baku, the "City of Winds," the largest city on the Caspian Sea and in the Caucasus region, is the scientific, cultural, and industrial center as well as the capital and commercial hub of Azerbaijan. Its famed medieval walled old city contains the Palace of the Shirvanshahs, a vast royal complex, and the iconic stone Maiden Tower. Contemporary landmarks include the Zaha Hadid–designed Heydar Aliyev Center and the Flame Towers, three pointed skyscrapers covered with LED screens. In the 2010s, Baku became a venue for major international events. Baku hosted the 57th Eurovision Song Contest in 2012, the 2015 European Games, the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games, the European Grand Prix in 2016, the Azerbaijan Grand Prix since 2017 (Formula 1), the finals of the 2018–19 UEFA Europa League, UEFA Euro 2020 and 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-29).

About the World Finals Host - ADA University

ADA University honors the ICPC community of Azerbaijan as they celebrate 20 years of ICPC participation. The mission of ADA University (ada.edu.az) is *to cultivate highly intellectual solution providers who are closely collaborating, efficiently communicating members of the global community, possessing ethics and a sense of citizenship*. One of the leading universities in Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus, ADA University was established on January 13, 2014, by a presidential decree as a state higher education institution offering undergraduate and graduate programs while advancing research. Through the merger, ADA University is the legal heir to both the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA and Information Technologies University).

About the World Finals Host Partner - The Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.cbar.az)

The Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan (CBAR) plays a crucial role in ensuring financial stability and fostering modernization and digitalization of the country's financial sector. As a legal entity of public law that safeguards financial stability within the authorities determined in the legislation, CBAR licenses, regulates and supervises banks, non-bank credit institutions, insurance market participants, investment companies, payment institutions and other licensed institutions, ensuring a secure and sustainable financial ecosystem. Today, the Central Bank and the banking system of Azerbaijan are the most digitized systems in Azerbaijan. Over the past 20 years, ICPC alumni have played and continue to play mission-critical roles in various structures of the Central Bank and the banking system of Azerbaijan.

About the ICPC Diamond World Finals Sponsor and Multi-Regional Sponsor - Huawei (huawei.com)

Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology infrastructure and smart devices. With more than 207,000 employees and operating in more than 170 countries and regions, Huawei's vision and mission is to bring digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world. Huawei is constantly exploring future innovations and is welcoming you to join the team to discover more topics in your region: career.huawei.com

About the ICPC Global Programming Tools Sponsor - JetBrains (jetbrains.com)

JetBrains is a global software company that creates professional software development tools and advanced collaboration solutions trusted by more than 15 million users worldwide. Since 2000, they have built a product catalog that covers all stages of the software development cycle, major technologies, programming languages, and educational processes. As developers of the Kotlin programming language and creators of professional development products like IntelliJ IDEA, CLion, and PyCharm, as well as educational tools that help people learn and teach computer programming, JetBrains supports individuals throughout their software development journeys. Sponsoring ICPC has special significance for JetBrains and aligns with their commitment to nurturing promising young talent and working with the brightest minds. Visit JetBrains for ICPC to learn about JetBrains' involvement with the ICPC and find materials on how the company supports the brilliant minds of the ICPC community.