



Inter-University Biology Challenge 2026

Institute of Biology Sri Lanka

Guidelines

IOBSL is organizing an Annual Biology Challenge competition for interdisciplinary teams of undergraduates selected from state and non-state universities in Sri Lanka to develop an attractive and challenging proposal to nourish the IOBSL theme "Biotechnology towards a sustainable future".

The theme of the challenge:

"Biotechnology towards a sustainable future"

Sub-themes

- Precision Soil Microbiomics & "Self-Fertilizing" Crops
- Cell-Free Bioproduction & Synthetic Proteins
- Vertical Farming & "Smart" Seeds
- Biosensors for Real-Time Environmental Monitoring
- Blue biotechnology for Cosmeceutical Synthesis

Objectives

- To develop the soft skills in planning, designing and organizing among the undergraduates
- To enhance the interdisciplinary interaction/ collaboration among the students from multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- To improve the skills of the project plan, managing both stakeholders and relationships, organizing their team
- To enhance the collaboration among undergraduates from biological and non-biological disciplines
- To link the knowledge of biological sciences to economic development through a polyphasic approach to economic development by amalgamating biological sciences, economics, product development and marketing management.

Target group: Undergraduates of State and Non-state Universities of Sri Lanka

Team composition: A four-member team can consist of students from different disciplines and one student from the discipline of biology.

Challenge structure: Interdisciplinary undergraduate teams of state universities in Sri Lanka will be challenged to design project proposals to nourish the theme "Biotechnology towards a sustainable future" under the aforementioned sub-themes.

- Each team has to register before developing the proposal via the link given in the flyer.
- Each team is expected to collaborate with an industrial partner or the University's industry liaison centres.

Registration

A four-member team must register for the competition by filling out the Google form and submitting a payment of 1000/- to the account of the Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka (A/C No. 086100141191763) at Peoples Bank, Thimbirigasyaya. The payment slip should be attached to the Google form.

Evaluation

A panel of judges will be appointed by the IOBSL to evaluate the proposals and presentations. A panel will be appointed based on subject expertise (sub-themes) and other non-biological teams. The novelty, feasibility, cost effectiveness and academically relevant factors will be considered when evaluating. The decision of the evaluating panel will be considered final.

Awards:

1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded with certificates at the IOBSL Annual Session

Other teams will be awarded a certificate of participation

Competition calendar:

- Opening for entries: 1st of May 2026
- Registration of the teams: 30th of June 2026, using the [Registration link](#)
- Proposal submission: 15th of July 2026 (More information will be provided to registered teams)
- Presentation: 31st of July 2026
- Notification of the winners: 7th of August 2026
- Awarding the certificates: At the Annual Sessions of the IOBSL

Contact information

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Inter-University Biology Challenge 2026
Organized by the Institute of Biology

Guidelines for the preparation of project proposal

- Use the MS Word
- Page limit: not more than 10 pages
- Paper size: A4; use both sides of the paper
- Font styles English – Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial Font size 12
- Margins: left: 1.5"; right, top and bottom: 1"
- Spacing: Double spaced except block quotations; notes footnotes, captions on table and figures, the appendix and index. These may be single-spaced.
- Page numbering: The preliminary pages must be numbered in small Roman numerals (i.e. ii, iii, iv etc.). While the text is in Arabic numerals, The title page is "i" but is not numbered. Page numbers should appear in the bottom right.

Elements of the Project Report:

a) Title Page: Centre the project title and include the name/s of students with the name of the University, Faculties, and year of the degree programme at the bottom (As given below).

b) Table of Contents: Include a page number indicating the beginning of each section.

c) Introduction: Background and the objectives of the project proposal of the challenge

d) Methodology: Describe the methodologies you will follow for each challenge. Describe in detail the methodology that will be used.

e) Outcomes: Clearly state the outcomes of the proposal

f) Acknowledgement: You should always credit those who assisted you (including individuals & institutions).

h) Reference list: This should consist of a list of journal articles, books, websites, and other sources referred to obtain information for the report.



IOBSL Challenge 2026

[Title of the project] - Font size 24/Bold

By

Name student 1 - Font size 12

Name student 2 - Font size 12

Name student 3 - Font size 12

Font size 12

[Name of the Faculty/University]- Font size 12

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Guidelines for PowerPoint Presentation

Please note that all presentations must be conformed to the following guidelines.

1. Presentations should be prepared using a Microsoft PowerPoint
2. Presentation should be in English language.
3. Font style - Use only the following font styles. English – Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial
4. Keep your font size readable on the computer screen. Font sizes above 24 are recommended.
5. Use bold, italics, and texts of different sizes for captions and subheadings as required.
6. Avoid putting long paragraphs in powerpoint slides. Keep it short and explain the slide during the presentation.
7. Avoid using animations which will take extra time from your presentation time.
8. Time duration: 10 minutes (05 minutes question and answer session followed).
9. The content of "First Slide" should include:
 - a. Title with project title.
 - b. Name/s of the students
 - c. University and faculties
 - d. Name of Teacher in charge
10. Other slides should include:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Methodology
 - c. Outcomes
 - e. References
 - f. Acknowledgement