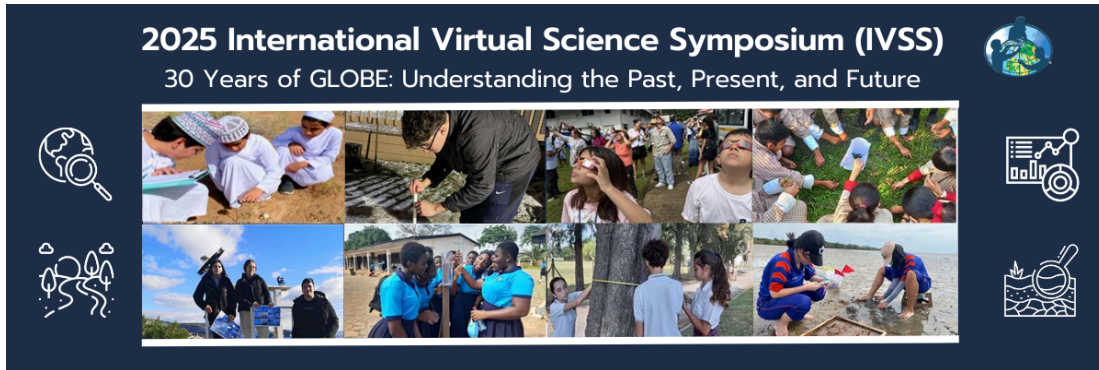




International Virtual Science Symposium (IVSS) Judging FAQs



Thank you for your interest in serving as a judge for the [2025 International Virtual Science Symposium \(IVSS\)](#)! Below are some answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). Please feel free to email ivss@nasaglobe.org with additional questions.

Who participates in the IVSS?

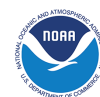
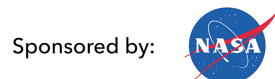
The IVSS is open to Kindergarten to Undergraduate students globally, although the vast majority of projects are K-12. Since 2016, out of 1,565 projects submitted to the IVSS, only 15 have been from undergraduate groups.

What does an IVSS project include?

The IVSS is an opportunity for students around the world to showcase their GLOBE research projects. Participants use GLOBE protocols to investigate questions and test hypotheses that they are interested in within their local community. IVSS project requirements vary by grade level, but each project includes a written report, description of how virtual badges were earned, and a presentation in the form of a video, poster presentation, ArcGIS StoryMap, podcast, or other presentation format. Visit the [IVSS page](#) for more information on the 2024 IVSS and the [IVSS Report Requirements page](#) for detailed report requirements.

What is the role of judges and how will judging results be used?

Unlike other science-related competitions, such as science fairs where there are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, IVSS rewards/recognizes participants with virtual badges. The IVSS is not a competition. The emphasis for judges is encouraging and providing constructive feedback to participants so they can learn from the experience and make improvements for future projects.





The IVSS is designed to be an opportunity for students to showcase GLOBE research, therefore the role of the judge is to encourage participation by GLOBE students across all member countries and provide students with constructive feedback.

Are there minimum qualifications for judges?

We encourage judges from a wide range of backgrounds who have earned at least an undergraduate degree. Typically judges are scientists, educators, graduate students and individuals working in STEM-related fields and organizations. Multilingual judges help us accept projects in different languages, but speaking a second language is not a requirement.

How many projects does each judge score? What is the time commitment?

On average, judges score three projects each, but judges can choose how many projects they would like to score. Each project takes approximately 20 minutes to score. Judges who score at least three projects by the 2 April deadline will earn a GLOBE virtual badge and a certificate. Visit the [IVSS Judge Resources Page](#) for more information.

When does judging take place? How are IVSS projects scored?

The judging period is from 19 March to 2 April 2025. Projects are scored using different grade-level rubrics, and judges provide scores and written feedback through a Google Form, which will be emailed when the judging period begins. Visit the [IVSS How Projects are Judged page](#) for more information.

Is there training for judges?

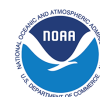
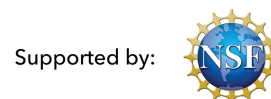
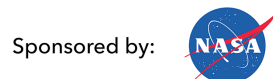
A training webinar for judges will take place on 19 March 2025 at 10 a.m. (EDT). The webinar will also be recorded and available on the IVSS website for those who are not able to attend the live broadcast.

Where do IVSS projects come from?

In 2024, 285 IVSS projects were submitted from students in 30 countries. Projects are accepted in the following languages: Arabic, Croatian, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Thai, offering a wide variety of perspectives. Visit the [IVSS Regional Statistics page](#) to learn more about IVSS project submissions by region from 2016 to present, and visit the [2024 IVSS Reports](#) page for examples of student projects.

What are broader impacts of the IVSS?

Participating in an IVSS project has multiple benefits on student learning outcomes. Students learn how to think like scientists as they develop the skills to investigate a research question in





their local community using GLOBE protocols and data. Students engage in scientific practices as they collaborate with their peers to make observations, collect and analyze data, and draw insightful conclusions to consider the impact of their research in their local community. IVSS projects are accepted in seven languages, showcasing a variety of perspectives in environmental stewardship. In 2024, IVSS project topics ranged from the impact of indoor air quality on human health, sustainable agricultural practices, the effect of water quality on aquatic biodiversity, the relationship between mosquito populations on vector-borne disease outbreaks, and more. Some research projects go on to compete in local, regional or national competitions. For example, in 2021 GLOBE Argentina students won the Argentine Junior Water Prize and represented their country in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition with an IVSS investigation titled “Characterization of the larval habitat of mosquitoes in Northern Patagonia, Argentina.”

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