

# **IAQF Annual Academic Competition**

## **Open to All IAQF Academic Program Affiliates**

### **Overview**

The International Association for Quantitative Finance is pleased to announce the annual competition for students enrolled in quantitative masters programs that are IAQF Academic Program Affiliates.

The winning team(s) will be invited to present their solution at an IAQF Virtual Event

### **The Rules**

- Students must be current and enrolled full or part-time in one of the IAQF Academic Affiliate Programs during the competition and on the submission date (Deadline –Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 5pm EST).
- Student teams may range in size from three to six members.
- Each team should pick a student captain to manage the team. This student should be the assigned representative for any questions during the process with the IAQF. Captains will be the only contact between the IAQF and their team.
- Each student team must list the program director or faculty member who will oversee their process – this should be the same faculty member for all students from the same program.
- Every school may have one team for every 30 full-time students enrolled in their program.
- The composition and picking of the student teams is at the discretion of each individual program – the IAQF will not choose or favor any students or particular teams.
- The solution must be no more than 10 pages in length, single-sided, Times New Roman Size 12 Font – any formulas, graphs or accompanying information must be included in these 10 pages. Judges will not read past page 10.
- An addendum (not included in the ten pages) including any programming or code used should be submitted as a separate document to your work
- All work must be original and from the students alone. While faculty members and/or practitioners in the field may be interviewed, they may not directly contribute to the solution.
- All solutions should be submitted with a copy of the original team submission sheet. The actual solution should not contain any reference to the school participating or the students participating – please make sure the solution itself has absolutely no reference to the school name, the students working on the paper or their team name. This competition will be judged blindly – judges will not know which school/group of students submitted the solution they are reading. This information will remain only in the IAQF office.
- All solutions must be submitted to the IAQF office electronically to [competition@IAQF.org](mailto:competition@IAQF.org) by the final solution submittal date in PDF form. Students will receive a confirmation of the receipt of their submission.
- Any additional guidelines or clarification of rules that come up during the process will be quickly judged by the IAQF Board of Directors and updated information will be distributed to all team captains at the same time.

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### **Important Dates and Process**

- Release of Rules and Announcement of Contest: **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- Deadline for Student Teams to be created and to submit their Team Form: **January 16th, 2026 at 5pm EST**
- Release of the Problem: **January 20th, 2026**
- Solution Submittal Date: **February 27th, 2026 at 5pm EST**
- Announcement of Winner: **Late Spring 2026 – Exact date TBD**

### **Judging Process**

- IAQF Board and Advisory Board Members will be on the judging panel
- Submissions will be split evenly among judges for scoring
- All submissions will be supplied blindly to judges – **students are reminded to make no mention of their school, academic program, or their names in their actual solutions**

### **Academic Programs Invited to Participate/Academic Affiliate Members**

Baruch College, Masters in Financial Engineering  
Bayes Business School, Master program in Quantitative Finance  
Boston University Questrom School of Business, MS Mathematical Finance  
Carnegie Mellon University, Masters in Computational Finance  
Columbia University, Industrial Engineering & Operations Research, MS in Financial Engineering  
Columbia University, Mathematics of Finance (MAFN) Program  
Cornell University, Financial Engineering Manhattan  
Fordham University, Master of Science in Quantitative Finance  
George Washington University, MSF  
Georgia Institute of Technology, Master of Science in Quantitative and Computational Science  
Johns Hopkins University, Applied Mathematics & Statistics Graduate Program  
NYU Courant Institute, MS Mathematics in Finance  
NYU Tandon School of Engineering, Masters in Financial Engineering  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Lally School, MS in Quantitative Finance and Risk Analytics  
Rutgers Business School, Master of Quantitative Finance  
Stevens Institute of Technology, Financial Engineering  
Stony Brook University - Applied Math & Statistics, QF Program  
UC Berkeley, Haas School, Masters in Financial Engineering  
UCLA, Anderson School, Masters in Financial Engineering  
University of Chicago, MS, Financial Mathematics  
University of Illinois, MS Financial Engineering  
University of Minnesota, Master of Financial Mathematics  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, MS in Mathematical Finance  
University of Toronto, Master of Mathematical Finance Program