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HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 2025-26

Middle East

HUSO

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Program Details

Dates

ROUND 1

15 and 16 November 2025 (Online exam)

ROUND 2

(Dates in January 2026 to be announced soon)

- 4-day In-person STEM bootcamp and Final Exam Round by **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad** in Dubai (exact timing and venue to be announced later)

Registration

Fee

AED 110 (VAT Inclusive)

Application Deadline: 22 September 2025

Eligibility

Grades 7 - 10/Years 8 - 11

- **CATEGORY 1**
  Grades 7 & 8/
  Years 8 & 9
- **CATEGORY 2**
  Grades 9 & 10/
  Years 10 & 11
- **Open to all Schools in the Middle East**

Certificate

All students will receive a Certificate of Participation from **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad (HUSO)**

Visit our Website to know more

Topics

- Biology
- Earth Science
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Maths

HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad (HUSO) is an undergraduate-run organization at Harvard University. HUSO is dedicated to provide accessible STEM education to middle and high school students. It organizes annual Science Olympiad invitationals at Harvard to support this mission.

This year, we are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Learn with Leaders in the Middle East! Together, we aim to broaden our reach and inspire young minds through engaging and educational STEM experiences.

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The HUSO Vision

Provide students across the Middle East with the opportunity to **learn STEM in an interdisciplinary way**

Inspire students to challenge themselves to **learn STEM and expose them to global perspectives**

Help students understand **how to use STEM to solve real-world problems**

Provide students with an **opportunity to participate in in-person and hands-on STEM workshops** supervised by Mentors from **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad (HUSO)**

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HUSO Olympiad Structure

ROUND 1

This round will be an online exam of 3 hours conducted for both categories: (Category 1 and Category 2) separately on 15th & 16th November, 2025.

ROUND 2

The top 100 students (50 from each category) will advance to Round 2 and participate in a written, in-person exam in Dubai (venue and dates in January 2026 to be announced soon). This exam will be supervised by the mentors of **The Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad.**
Additionally, students will attend a 4-day STEM bootcamp and final exam round in January 2026 (dates and venue to be announced), conducted by the **HUSO mentors**.

ROUND 1

- Online Test
- 3-hour test
- Multiple choice questions
- 15 & 16 November 2025

ROUND 2

- Top 100 students (50 from Category 1 and 50 from Category 2) will advance to Round 2 in (venue and dates in January 2026 to be announced soon).
- Finalists will participate in a written, in-person exam in Dubai (venue and dates to be announced)
- Finalists will have the opportunity to attend a 4-day in-person STEM boot camp and final written exam round (dates to be announced) in Dubai in January 2026, conducted by **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad mentors**.

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HUSO Olympiad **Timeline**

April 2025 - 30th June 2025

- Registrations Open

Round 1 Exam and Results

- Online exam on 15 and 16 November 2025.
- Top 100 to be announced in December 2025 who will go to Round 2.

Round 2

- In-person exam in Dubai in January 2026.
- 4-day STEM bootcamp in-person exam conducted by HUSO mentors in January 2026. (Exact dates to be announced later)

Awards

- Top 10 winners to be announced in January 2026.
- In-person prize distribution in Dubai.

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Rewards and Recognition

TOP 100

- All participants get a **Certificate of Participation** from **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad**.
- **Top 100 students** to get an opportunity to **attend an in-person STEM bootcamp.**
- **Top 100 students will get medals.**

TOP 10

- **Top 10 winners** to be announced from the final round.
- **Top 10 winners** will be **awarded trophies and distinction medals.**
- **Top 10 winners** will get a **scholarship voucher of USD 200** for programs conducted by Learn with Leaders.
- **Top 10 Rank Holders** to get **prize money of Euro 100** each sponsored by Institut Polytechnique De Paris

WINNER

- **One winner** will be announced from the **Top 10 students** who will get an opportunity to **attend a fully funded Summer Camp at Harvard University** by Learn with Leaders.

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Exam Format (Round 1)

Overview

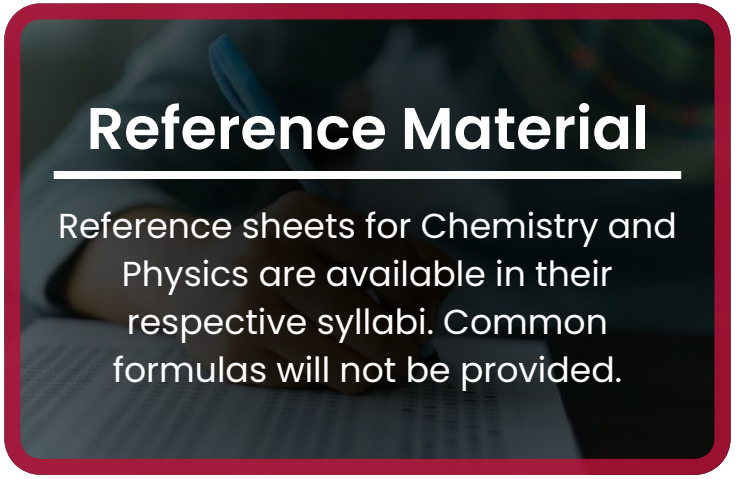
All five subjects **(Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Maths)** will be provided to you in one singular exam, which **you have 3 hours to complete.**

Your final score will be based on your best four scaled section scores. **Each section is weighed equally.**

All questions are multiple choice and have **5 possible answers and exactly 1 correct answer.**

Each correct answer will give you 1 point. You will **lose 0.25 points for an incorrect answer.** You will **receive 0 points for a question left blank.**

- The exam will fit into **2 divisions**, one for **Category 1 students** and one for **Category 2 students.**
- Students will have **3 hours for the entire exam** which they may distribute among the sections as they wish.
- There are **5 sections: Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Maths.**
- All questions will be **multiple choices with 5 answer choices (A, B, C, D, E).**
- **Scientific (non-graphing, non-programmable) calculator, ruler, and compass will be allowed.**
- Each section is designed to have a wide range of difficulties, and students should not expect to finish all the questions/answers. It is strongly recommended to spread your time evenly across the topics, because easier questions may appear randomly.



Reference Material

Reference sheets for Chemistry and Physics are available in their respective syllabi. Common formulas will not be provided.

Syllabus (Round 1)

Scan to view the Syllabus & Guide for **Category 1**

Scan to view the Syllabus & Guide for **Category 2**

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Scoring

ROUND 1

- On each section (Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Physics, Maths) each student's raw section score (# of correct answers - 0.25 * number of incorrect answers) will be calculated.
- You will receive 0 points for a question left blank.
- A student's scaled section score is defined as the z-score of their raw score in that section compared to the other students.
  In other words,

$$\text{Scaled section score} = \frac{\text{Students raw section score - Mean raw section score across test takers}}{\text{Standard Deviation of raw section scores across test takers}}$$

- A student's total score is defined as the sum of their best four scaled section scores (the worst section will be dropped). Students will be awarded prizes and qualification for the Final Camp based on their total score.

ROUND 2

Structure & Scoring

- Top 100 students will move to round 2.
- In Round 2, students will participate in a written, in-person exam in Dubai in January 2026.
- This exam will be supervised by mentors from **Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad**.
- Additionally, students will have the opportunity to attend a 4-day STEM bootcamp in January 2026, conducted by the same mentors.
  (exact dates to be announced)

The exact Structure and Scoring of Round 2 will be announced soon.

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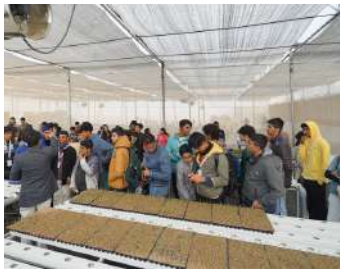
Glimpses from the **Past HUSO STEM Bootcamp**











Student Testimonials

The experience was incredible, with top-notch mentors and lifelong friendships, and the Strawberry DNA Extraction workshop was especially engaging, interactive, and fun!

Kaashvi Agarwal
Grade 6

The workshops were fun and educational, with "Very Gneiss" and "Strawberry DNA Extraction" being particular highlights!

Rodney Eljeevdas
Grade 9

Student Testimonials

Interacting with Harvard and MIT mentors and engaging in sessions like "Black Holes," which perfectly aligned with my interests, made it an invaluable experience for my future in STEM.

Anamaya Sharma
Grade 10

The Black Hole session fascinated me with its mix of math and astronomy, while the hands-on Strawberry DNA extraction tied as my favorite, blending my love for biology with practical learning.

Ashira Biswas
Grade 8

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Meet the Past Mentors of HUSO

Ethan Lee

Ethan is studying Physics, and potentially Mechanical Engineering at Harvard University. He participated in Science Olympiad throughout high school, as well as other science competitions. He won a gold medal at the United States Physics Olympiad, and has won medals at regional competitions, such as Science Bowl, and Physics Bowl. He is very interested in space, and hopes to work in research related to space exploration. He is also a huge fan of soccer, hiking, and cooking.

Robin Pan

Robin is studying Molecular and Cellular Biology and Computer Science at Harvard University. She is currently co-President of Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad and has previously placed top 3 multiple times in biochemistry and ecology events at various Science Olympiad invitationals and won the national Envirothon competition. When she's not nerding out about proteins or birds, she enjoys spending time with her chubby cat, going for long walks, and reading!

Jonah Xu

Jonah Xu is studying Biological Engineering at MIT. He is currently on the MIT Science Olympiad Planning Committee and was an HUSO Event Supervisor for Microbe Mission. As a competitor, he medaled six times at the National Tournament, including three 1st place medals in Anatomy & Physiology. He is also a two-time USA Biology Olympiad Finalist, earning a silver medal in 2023. When Jonah's not buried in a biology textbook, he enjoys exploring cafes, biking, and tinkering with Legos.

Luke Chen

Luke is studying Chemical and Physical Biology, and Statistics at Harvard University. He is currently the Director of Service for the Harvard Undergraduate Science Olympiad team and won many national-level invitational and state medals, as well as placing 5th in Chemistry Lab at the 2023 National Tournament. He is a two-time US National Chemistry Olympiad Finalist, placing in the top 20 in the United States. Luke enjoys travelling, Mario Kart, and trivia.

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Meet the Past Mentors of HUSO

Kevin Liu

Kevin is studying Computer Science, Math, and Statistics at Harvard University. He competed in many math and robotics competitions throughout his childhood, eventually qualifying for the USA Junior Math Olympiad and the VEX World Robotics Championship multiple times. Outside of STEM, he likes reading through Wikipedia, longboarding, and going to art museums.

Adelina Andrei

Adelina is studying Mathematics at Harvard University. Throughout high school, she loved to solve puzzles about the world through science, which contributed to her medaling four times at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad and two times at the International Mathematical Olympiad, as well as another two times at the International Chemistry Olympiad. When she is not nerding out thinking about numbers and formulas, Adelina enjoys reading, traveling, and exploring the world.

Heidi Zhang

Heidi is studying Artificial Intelligence (and hopefully Earth Science too!) at MIT. She is currently on the MIT SciOly Planning committee and competed in Science Olympiad for Belmont High School, medaling at various state and invitational-level competitions. Her favorite event, Rocks and Minerals, led her to qualifying for and participating in the US Earth Science Training Camp (top 40 in the nation). In her free time, Heidi enjoys singing with the MIT Ohms, MIT's premier South Asian fusion a cappella group, though her Hindi pronunciation needs some work.

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team@learnwithleaders.com

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