



9th International Geography Olympiad

Cologne, Germany

21 August – 27 August, 2012

Information for Participants



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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 9th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), to be held in Cologne, Germany from 21 to 27 August 2012. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie (DGfG) together with the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, are pleased to host you. We are looking forward to sharing the week with you!

iGeos are held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and are overseen by the IGU Olympiad Task Force. The aims of all iGeos are to:

- ✓ stimulate active interest in geographical and environmental studies among young people
- ✓ contribute positively to debate about the importance of geography as a senior secondary school subject by drawing attention to the quality of geographical skills and interests among young people
- ✓ facilitate social contacts between young people from different countries and by doing so, contribute to the understanding between nations

2. Contact Information

Dr. Dorothea Wiktorin
Institute of Geography
University of Cologne
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
D-50923 Cologne
Germany
Phone: +49-221-470-2591
Fax: +49-221-470-4971
Email: d.wiktorin@uni-koeln.de

Website of 2012 iGeo:
<http://www.geoolympiad.org/>

Extra contact information during the event (between 21 and 26 August, 2012):

Dr. Dorothea Wiktorin
Phone: +49-160-99019759

Konstantin Ntageretzis
Phone: +49-160-99033470

Please visit us on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/iGeo2012>

3. Our Supporters

- ✓ Mrs. Sylvia Löhrmann, School Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia and Patron of the 2012 iGeo
- ✓ UNESCO – within the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- ✓ International Geographical Union (IGU)
- ✓ DGfG – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie
- ✓ University of Cologne
- ✓ Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Cito – Institute for Educational Measurement, Arnhem The Netherlands
- ✓ SLO, Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development
- ✓ KNAG, Royal Dutch Geographical Society
- ✓ Royal Dutch Geography Society
- ✓ Royal Geographical Society of Queensland
- ✓ Ghent University, Belgium
- ✓ VU University, Amsterdam the Netherlands
- ✓ Klett-Verlag (Klett-Publishing)
- ✓ Regionalverband Ruhr (The Ruhr Regional Association)
- ✓ Naturpark Rheinland e.V.
- ✓ RWE Power

4. Team Members

Each team will be made up of four students and two adult team leaders. With regards to the students:

- ✓ They must be students of secondary schools (general or technical), or ex-students who finished school in the year of the competition and have not yet commenced regular education at tertiary level.
- ✓ Their ages must be between 16 and 19 years old (inclusive) on 31 July 2012.
- ✓ They must be capable of answering test questions in the official language of the iGeo (English). Non-native English speakers will get a list of key words from the questions translated into their own language, be allowed to use language (not geographical) dictionaries, and get extra time for the written response test.
- ✓ They must be selected through a national competition.

With regards to the two team leaders:

- ✓ They must be involved in geography teaching or geography in education in their country.
- ✓ Each of them must be able to speak and write the official language of the iGeo (English).
- ✓ One leader will be a member of the International Board and will be eligible to serve on a jury, vote on the Statutes, review marking guidelines, translate geographic terms, etc.
- ✓ The other leader will be primarily responsible for the students.

5. Programme Outline

Please note the current programme is preliminary. It will be progressively updated on the web and copies of the detailed programme distributed to participants on their arrival.

a. Students

→ See separate document

b. Team Leaders

When not involved with particular duties such as jury meetings and supervising tests, team leaders take part in activities listed in the student programme (except for the tests). The International Board (IB) consists of **one leader** from each participating team. The three marking juries consist of subsets of the International Board, supplemented by question writers.

→ See separate document

6. Competition Tests

The competition will consist of three parts: a written response test (40% of total marks), a substantial fieldwork exercise (40%) and a multimedia quiz (20%). For examples of past questions, see the iGeo website at www.geoolympiad.org. The tests are prepared by committees under the supervision of the IGU Olympiad Task Force, and are based on guidelines drawn up by the Task Force after consultation with the International Board. iGeo assignments will test both knowledge and skills in geography.

In general students complete the test assignments individually, although parts of the fieldwork test may be done in groups. Students must produce their answers in the official language of the iGeo (English).

The tests will focus on some of the following topics:

1. climate & climate change
2. hazards & hazard management
3. resources & resource management
4. environmental geography & sustainable development
5. landforms, landscapes & land use
6. agricultural geography & food problems
7. population & population change
8. economic geography & globalisation
9. development geography & spatial inequality
10. urban geography, urban renewal & urban planning
11. tourism & tourism management
12. cultural geography & regional identities

Required skills:

13. map skills (read, analyse, interpret and draw maps)
14. inquiry and problem-solving skills
15. graphicacy skills (read, analyse and interpret images, photos, statistics, graphs)

7. Material for Tests

It is important that all material required for tests is carried by students in their hand luggage. Tests will not be rescheduled because equipment has gone astray. This material includes calculators and language dictionaries for students whose native language is not English. Note that you need to bring a hard-copy dictionary. Electronic communication devices of any kind (for instance Mobilephones, Smartphones, iPods or iPads) that may contain other material will not be permitted. Similarly, students will not be able to use calculators in mobile phones and must use a simple calculator.

For the fieldwork-test the participants should bring some writing and drawing material such as coloured pencils, a ruler, thick felt-tip pens or markers in several colours.

8. Test Integrity and Security

Students must answer the test questions independently and individually, except for any allowed group work during the fieldwork test. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the student from the iGeo.

International Board members shall maintain absolute security about the contents of any test until after that particular test has taken place.

9. Code of Conduct

We know that the exceptional young people who make it into the iGeo teams will be a credit to their countries, but for the record, participants are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- ✓ Participants shall conduct themselves towards others in a fair and courteous manner.
- ✓ Participants shall accept graciously and without quarrel the decisions of the International Board with regards the tests, and of the local organiser with regards other parts of the programme.
- ✓ Participants are expected to participate fully in the organised programme.
- ✓ Participants shall demonstrate honesty and integrity both during the competition and at all related events.
- ✓ Participants must show proper care for the property of others and the facilities made available to them.
- ✓ Participants are to abide by the laws and customs of the host country.
- ✓ Students are not to have alcohol or other drugs in their possession, or consume it, at any time.

10. Cost of Participating

Each participating team will pay the costs, for its students and team leaders, of travel to and from Cologne, medical/travel insurance, and visas (if any). The local organisers will cover the costs of providing ground transport, accommodation, meals, awards and the scheduled functions and excursions included in the iGeo 2012 programme, from Thursday 21 August to Sunday 26 August, including accommodation that night. Each team will make a contribution towards the local costs. For iGeo 2012 this is 275.00 € per person for students and adults, with the option of 375.00 € per adult in a single room (currency converter <http://www.xe.com/>).

Information on how to pay the fee is given in the Registration Fee Form.

ATTENTION: The fee is payable preferably not later than 15 April 2012. For the teams which have their final competitions later than that the ultimate deadline for paying the fee is the **25th of May 2012**.

11. Medical Insurance

All international participants (students, team leaders and observers) must have full medical and travel insurance coverage for the entire time that they are in Germany. Suitable insurance policies are normally available from travel agents at the time of booking flights. iGeo 2012 Cologne does not carry insurance for medical or travel expenses of participants and the cost of emergency medical attention or related travel can be very high.

Photocopies of the insurance policies are to be sent to the organisers in advance of arrival at the iGeo 2012 Cologne, showing the name of the company issuing the policy, policy type and policy number, along with the company's emergency contact details, in particular the contacts from within Cologne.

12. Transfers in Cologne

All teams are responsible for their own transport arrangements to and from Cologne. The organisers must be notified of travel arrangements (see Travel Details Form). Last-minute changes or delays should be advised to the organisers. Up until 20 August, 2012, use the normal contacts:

Phone: (+49-221-470-2591)

Email: d.wiktorin@uni-koeln.de

Representatives of iGeo 2012 will welcome the arriving teams at Cologne-Bonn Airport on 21 August 2010. They will hand out tickets for the metro und subway and describe to the team members the way to the accommodation, which is easy to reach. Teams travelling on other days and from other German airports will be responsible for their own transfers. Those teams who arrive at Cologne Central Station will have to make their own way to the Youth Hostel which lies in walking distance of the central station. For further information see location map attached. During the entire event from 21st to 27th of August there will be a team of iGeo support staff who will help and answer all questions.

Note: For those who attend the post-iGeo excursion, the excursion will end in Berlin. Therefore it is better to book your flight back to your home country from Berlin (distance Berlin-Cologne is more than 600 km!).

13. Accommodation

All participants will be housed in the Youth Hostel in Cologne-Deutz. The tests will be conducted in the Institute of Geography at the University of Cologne.

Students (girls and boys separately) will be housed in four-bed rooms and leaders in single- or twin-bed rooms, with each room having its own bathroom facilities. For further details about the Youth Hostel which is located in the heart of Cologne see:

<http://www.jugendherberge.de/jh/rheinland/koeln-deutz/index.shtml.en?m>

1. *Laundry facilities:* The Youth Hostel is equipped with washing machines and dryers.
2. *Bedding:* Bedding for adults and students will be supplied.
3. *Towels and toiletries:* All participants should bring their own towel, soap, tooth brush, toothpaste, and other toiletries.
4. *Internet access:* At the Youth hostel there are 2 internet corners. At the Institute of Geography you will have free WIFI internet access.

14. Catering

During your stay at the Youth Hostel you will have breakfast in the mornings and a hot dinner in the evenings. Furthermore each person will get a lunch-pack from the Youth Hostel for the day. Water and small snacks will be provided at the Institute of Geography. Please indicate on the Student and Team Leader Registration Forms any special dietary information such as food allergies, or diets such as vegetarian – be specific: no meat; no meat or fish; vegan; etc.

15. Clothing

It is anticipated that the weather may be hot, but could also be cool and rainy during that period (see the climate graph in Section 24). Therefore you should come prepared for hot weather, but also for rainy weather (hat, sunscreen, suncream, rain jacket, umbrella, etc.). For most occasions casual clothing is fine – jeans, shorts, T-shirts, etc. We are concerned that participants from northern Europe will find our sun extremely strong, so please bring a hat and sunscreen.

At the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, you are invited to wear a team uniform, national costume, or else smart casual clothes (for males long pants, a shirt with a collar, a jacket only if you need it for warmth; for females a dress, skirt or long pants with a shirt or blouse).

For the fieldwork test all students are to wear practical shoes such as runners/trainers, a hat, a shirt with sleeves and rain protection.

16. Official Ceremonies

The official opening ceremony of iGeo 2012 will take place at the Institute of Geography. The closing ceremony will take place in the Cologne Philharmony (<http://en.koelner-philharmonie.de/die-philharmonie/>), and is at the same time as the opening ceremony of the International Geographical Congress Cologne 2012. About 2000 participants are expected to take part!

The gold medals will be given to the competitors during the closing ceremony by school minister Sylvia Löhrmann. Should your team wish to invite a national dignitary or representative, please forward their details to us by 15 July and we will ensure an official invitation is sent to them.

17. Cultural Function

The intercultural evening is considered a highlight of every International Geography Olympiad. Up to now it has been composed of a sequence of performances by the individual teams. The intercultural evening at the 2012 iGeo will be held 24th August at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Cologne, see: <http://www.museenkoeln.de/rautenstrauch-joest-museum/default.asp>. It follows a different, new concept which focuses on the *intercultural* idea. In order to realize this new concept the following elements are introduced:

Firstly: To prepare for the intercultural evening and the performances, all student participants will take part in one of four workshops on the two evenings preceding the event. Each student from a team will be allocated to a separate workshop, leading to a group of 32 students from 32 nations (anticipated number). Thereby the contact between all the nations is guaranteed and the premise of true intercultural learning is set. Prior preparation of performances by national groups, as has happened for previous Olympiads, therefore becomes unnecessary. For the 2012 iGeo, the preparation will happen during the Olympiad, and will be led by university students and academics of the Universities of Cologne and Münster. In the run up to the iGeo the university students will take part in a collective project on intercultural learning held by the university lecturers.

Secondly: The general topic of the intercultural evening is “**Diversity in the global village**” or “**Unity in Diversity**” (working titles). On the one hand the workshops aim to sensitize the students to the danger of the possible loss of cultural individuality through its elimination by a conformist mass culture as a consequence of globalization and communication technologies. On the other hand the possibilities for an increasingly connected world will be illustrated: cultures mix and influence each other in creative ways, as can be spelt out by world music or fashion trends. Thus the content of the intercultural evening will be concerned with the creation of sensitivity to the causal forces of conformity (globally active market power) and the possibilities offered to collectively frame diversity.

The following four options for performances are covered in the workshops:

- ✓ *Acting performance*: Communication is the foundation for cross-cultural understanding. The goal of the performances should be to illustrate similarities and differences of communication rituals in different cultures. Keywords are: intercultural communication, language, gestures, rituals.
- ✓ *Musical performance*: Music is a very important part of young people's lives. It expresses culture and creates cultural identity. The different styles of music of various cultures have always influenced one another. Keywords are: intercultural choir, music as "world language", global music industry.
- ✓ *Fashion show*: This section is similar to the musical performance: Fashion is an expression of individual identity, yet, at the same time subject to global processes and defined through the market power of trends and labels. It is also an important topic for young people, who show their affiliation with certain peer groups through clothing. Keywords are: fashion as a way of individual and cultural expression, fashion industry as market power.
- ✓ *Slideshow*: Pictures have a special potency to shape our thoughts. Through the power of pictures, images of countries and cultures are created and influenced. One has to distinguish between self-image and the way others perceive a picture, culture or concept; in other words differentiate between self-perception and constructed images. Keywords are: pictures as a concept of self-images and the way others perceive cultures.

To realize the ideas for the performances all teams are kindly asked to bring the following:

1. some ideas about their own communication rituals (e.g., with regard to greeting/salutation, disapproval, gratitude, complaint, congratulation, denial);
 2. two songs (as an mp3-file or on a CD/DVD), one by a favourite international/foreign artist and the other one by a national/regional artist – both songs should be agreed on by all four members of the team;
 3. a traditional national dress/costume preferably including all accessories, such as headpieces and shoes;
 4. each one of the students should bring a picture (preferably as digital data) they have taken themselves and that represents their native region.
- Students in a team might like to consider in advance how they will distribute themselves across the four workshops.

18. Geographical Poster Presentations

The poster presentations – a second highlight of the event – also follow a slightly different concept this year: Each team (students only) is invited to give a presentation, not about *any* geographical aspect of their homeland, but one related to this general topic:

Water as an essential resource – Water as a versatile habitat.

The teams can focus on *any* specific example from their home country related to the general topic, for example, water supply, conservation of habitats dependent on water, effects of drought or floods, flood-control, the sea or rivers as important trade routes, etc. So we ask the participants to make a poster presentation about water in their country. Water is very important for everybody everywhere. We cannot live without it. It is our friend and our enemy. Sometimes we have too much and sometimes we do not have enough. Water connects and divides. Water is a very important theme in geography for it is a vital element in relations between man and nature and between people.

Teams are **not** to use a poster or presentation developed by someone else.

The Poster Presentation has two elements:

1. the production of a poster to display, for participants to look at during the week
2. the presentation of the issue in this poster to some of the other teams.

Note, the geographical poster presentation is not part of the scoring for the Olympiad medals, but we'll be talking a popular vote and giving a prize for the best.

The Poster

The poster is not an advertising-type poster, but is similar to the type of posters that geographers would produce for a poster presentation session at a conference. Theirs are on their research, but yours will be on your chosen geographical, water-related issue. The elements of an effective poster are:

1. Focused, limited topic
2. Clear title and authors
3. Self-explanatory graphics. These should dominate the poster. Types of graphics that could be used include maps, photos, graphs, flowcharts, diagrams, tables. Include sources for graphics.
4. A minimal amount of text to describe and analyse the issue and draw some conclusions. Use short sentences and bullet point. The text should be large enough to read from 1.5 to 2 m away.

Some poster 'experts' suggest that the right proportion is about 20-25% text, 40-45% graphics and 30-40% empty space.

There are examples of posters at:

<http://arts.monash.edu.au/ges/research/gis/public/ozri-poster2.php>
<http://arts.monash.edu.au/ges/research/gis/public/ozri-poster1.php>
<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/examples/images/agemap.pdf>

These examples are on topics far more specific than you would choose. Please note that these posters are by no means perfect. A lot of the text is too small; the centring of the text on the Australian ones frankly looks horrible. They are just there to give you an idea of what a conference poster looks like if you (i.e. the students) don't already know. We look forward to seeing better ones from you!

There is no need to go to the expense of printing your poster out on a single sheet of paper. You can use old-fashioned cut-and-paste (with glue!) to put the elements together on a single large sheet of card/paper, and bring it to iGeo in a protective roll. You will need to bring the finished poster to Cologne for display from the first day. We will not be providing facilities for you to finish them off.

Poster presentation

At conferences authors present their posters by standing beside them and talking to a couple of people at a time. At iGeo we will organize it in the following way: the poster presentation will last two hours. The two hours will be divided in 8 timeslots of 15 minutes. Every team member has to present the poster twice (once an hour) and in the remaining time (90 minutes) she or he can listen to presentations of other teams. So every member has to give a presentation twice and can listen to 6 poster presentations of her or his choice.

The presentations should last for a **maximum of 8 minutes** (it is OK to be shorter). This will allow time for questions and some discussion after each presentation.

19. Excursions during the iGeo

Day excursions on Saturday: on Saturday 25th of August all participants will go on one of three full-day excursions (included in the fee). We have chosen three interesting regional areas where several geographical topics will be demonstrated and discussed:

- ✓ Naturpark Rheinland (Nature Reserve Rheinland): a cultural landscape conservation area near Cologne and Bonn along the Rhine with outstanding cultural importance (castle and palaces, agricultural landscape, etc.). Some main topics will be: the meaning of cultural landscape, aspects of tourism, various forms of agriculture.

- ✓ Rheinisches Braunkohlenrevier (Rhenish lignite-mining region): The Rhenish (Rheinland) lignite-mining region covers an area of some 2,500 km² to the west of Cologne. It is the largest lignite-mining region in Europe! RWE Power AG operates four large opencast mines in the district. Some main topics will be: energy supply, relocation measures, ecological consequences.
- ✓ Das Ruhrgebiet (Ruhr Area): With 5 million inhabitants the Ruhr Area is one of the largest metropolitan areas in Germany. In the 19th Century it was one of the largest coal-mining areas in Europe. Nowadays it can be seen as a good example of the efforts to initiate a process of change in the regions characterized by old industry and de-industrialization in order to convert the cities from industrial sites into service centres. Some main topics will be: de-industrialisation and structural changes, industrial landscapes and heritage.

For leaders who are involved in marking the decision making exercise we will offer a half day excursion in Cologne (see the preliminary programme)

Half-day excursion on Sunday: on Sunday, the 26th of August, German pupils from advanced courses in geography will guide the participants in small groups through the inner city of Cologne. With this special and innovative part of the program we pursue the following goals:

- a) to encourage the intercultural exchange between the participants and German pupils,
- b) to use the didactic principle of “students teaching students”. It will be very interesting to see which aspects of their hometown the Cologne students will show and demonstrate to the iGeo participants.

20. Post iGeo Excursion

As enough teams have indicated interest, an optional tour at extra cost will be organised following iGeo 2012. Mr. Ronny Schmidt from the Geography Department of Leipzig University has organised a five day trip through Germany subsequent to the Olympiad. During the trip you will visit Heidelberg, Leipzig, Dresden and finally Berlin. Overnight stays will be in Youth Hostels. Total cost per person (students and leaders) is 495.00 €. For further details look at the information sheet sent previously, together with the application forms. If joining the excursion please keep in mind that you should book your flight back to your country from Berlin rather than from Cologne.

21. Observers

Observers are limited to one per country from countries already scheduled to host an International Geography Olympiad, and from countries who are considering entering a team in future iGeos. Countries in these categories should already have discussed this with the Local Organiser.

22. Important Visa Information

Several countries need a visa to enter Germany. Current information can be found on the website of the German Federal Foreign Office:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite_node.html

23. Customs and Quarantine

Please refer to the following websites, managed by the relevant authorities.

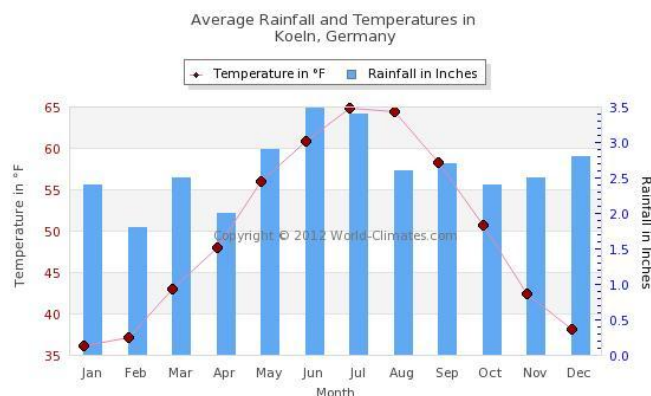
http://www1.zoll.de/english_version/index.html

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite_node.html

24. General Information

a. Climate

Most parts of Germany have a temperate seasonal climate. Humid westerly winds dominate the climate, which is moderated by the North Atlantic Drift. Rainfall occurs during the whole year but especially during the summer months (June-September). The winters are mild and summers tend to be cool.



This means that during the iGeo the temperature could go beyond 30°C but it could also be cool and very rainy. Due to this we recommend participants bring an umbrella or light water-proof jacket but also sun protection. Participants are also advised to take protective measures by taking water bottles during the field trips and by avoiding sun exposure as much as

possible. For further information, please refer to the website of the German Weather Service at <http://www.dwd.de/>.

b. Electrical Equipment

The power supply for electricity is 220 Volts. Power outlets only accept plugs with two round prongs. Please bring your own electrical outlet adapter to adjust the AC plug on your equipment. Participants from areas with different currents should bring a transformer to operate their electrical appliances.

c. Money and Banks

During your stay in Cologne exchange of currency can be done at the airport and in downtown banks.

d. Traffic

Germany drives on the right. People from countries where they drive on the left will therefore generally look the wrong way when crossing the road. Be aware of this and be careful.

25. iGeo 2012 Organising Committee

The Organising Committee is composed off:

- ✓ Dorothea Wiktorin (chair), Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Konstantin Ntageretzis (co-chair), Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Holger Kretschmer (co-chair), Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Johanna Mäsgen (supervisor of the intercultural evening), Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Stephan Langer (supervisor of the fieldwork test), Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
- ✓ Gabriele Schrüfer (supervisor of the intercultural evening), Institute for the Didactics of Geography, University of Münster
- ✓ Thomas Breitbach, Chair of the Association of School Geographers in North Rhine-Westphalia



26. General Information on iGeos

iGeos are challenging competitions for senior secondary students. They are held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union and overseen by the IGU Olympiad Task Force. The Task Force members are:

- ✓ Joop van der Schee (co-chair), Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ✓ Henk Ankoné (co-chair), National Institute for Curriculum Development, Netherlands
- ✓ Kathryn Berg (secretary), Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Australia
- ✓ Fernando Garcia-Garcia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- ✓ Wolfgang Gerber, Sportgymnasium Leipzig, Germany
- ✓ Yoshiyasu Ida, Institute of Education, University of Tsukuba
- ✓ Sue Lomas, Salford City Council, United Kingdom
- ✓ Su-Min Shen, National Taiwan Normal University

More information on iGeos in general, including previous iGeos and past questions, is available at www.geolympiad.org.