

Media release

Embargoed to 9am Monday 19 June 2023

Australia's newest International Science Olympiad competitors revealed

Australia's newest batch of Olympiad stars will be announced on Monday 19 June at Australian Parliament House – and every one of them is still in high school.

Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, will reveal the names of 31 of the nation's brightest young scientists and mathematicians who are limbering up to compete in the International Science Olympiads over the next few months.

Representing 24 schools from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, the high school students will compete in Olympiad events across disciplines including biology, chemistry, earth science, informatics, mathematics and physics. They'll pit their skills against more than 1,900 students from 104 nations across the globe.

To win a coveted spot representing Australia in the world's toughest science and maths competitions for students, the young competitors took part in a rigorous qualifying process including extension programs and exams run by not-for-profit organisations Australian Science Innovations (ASI) and the Australian Maths Trust (AMT) over the past year.

This year's Olympiad stars include Jason Dunn from Sydney Science College who will represent Australia in the International Biology Olympiad in United Arab Emirates. Jason's sister Manjekah competed for Australia in the same event in the 2014 International Science Olympiads.

Other sibling acts include William Cheah, representing Australia for the second time in the International Mathematical Olympiad, whose brother Matthew won silver in the same event in 2017, and twin sisters Cloris and Iris Xu, Year 11 students from Sydney's Baulkham Hills High School, who are also in this year's Australian maths team.

Starters from regional Australia include International Biology Olympiad competitor Alex Park from Victoria's Werribee High School and International Earth Science Olympiad team member Sydney Richter from Cairns State High School.

Three of the students who have won a place on Australian Olympiad science teams have progressed through the Junior Science Olympiads, a feeder program into the senior competitions launched by Australian Science Innovations in 2020.

"The Junior Science Olympiads provides a new avenue for us to capture the attention of our most talented students at a young age and nurture their skills and enthusiasm. We're not only creating a pipeline of Olympiad stars but helping secure Australia's future by identifying, encouraging and supporting those who may go on to become our leading scientists and problem solvers," Australian Science Innovations Chair Anna Davis said.

“Good science is central to solving every social and economic issue we face today. Among this year’s Olympiad competitors are students who’ve told us they want to cure Alzheimer’s Disease, solve clean energy and climate tech challenges, promote ocean and Antarctic health and explore the intersection of engineering and space. They’re an amazing bunch of individuals and every one of them deserves their place on the Olympiad team. We can’t wait to celebrate their success.”

Australian Maths Trust Director of Performance and Pathways, Ben Kirk, said academic high-performance programs represent opportunities for both students and their countries to develop and innovate.

“Our pathways support not only the individuals that have earned their place in Australian teams, but also a strong foundation of mathematicians, computer scientists, coders and STEM graduates that will drive research and our technological interests for Australia.

“With Australia hosting the International Mathematical Olympiad in 2025, it’s a tremendous opportunity to showcase our country and attract intelligent, hardworking individuals to study, work and reside here, and to deliver strongly on the engineering and technology-based outcomes that industry requires for nation-building plans for the next 20 years.”

2023 International Science, Informatics and Mathematical Olympiads Australian team members:

International Biology Olympiad team
Competing in United Arab Emirates, 3-11 July 2023

Jason Dunn	NSW	Sydney Science College
James Johnson	VIC	Haileybury College
Angus Kiang	NSW	Smith’s Hill High School
Jonghyeon (Alex) Park	VIC	Werribee Secondary College

International Chemistry Olympiad team
Competing in Switzerland, 16-25 July

George Chen	NSW	Shore School
Kevin Lin	NSW	Knox Grammar School
Hanlin (James) Liu	NSW	Sydney Grammar School
Bobby Wu	NSW	Normanhurst Boys School

International Earth Science Olympiad team
Competing online, 16-25 July 2023

David Brown	TAS	Launceston Christian School
Seth Cahill	NSW	Chatswood High School
James Ferry	NSW	St Aloysius’ College
Henry Morgan	ACT	Brindabella Christian College

Sydney Richter	QLD	Cairns State High School
James Strickland	NSW	St Aloysius' College
Penny Tassicker	TAS	Marist Regional College
Cathy Zhang	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School

International Informatics Olympiad
Competing in Hungary, 28 August-4 September 2023

Miles Conway	VIC	Melbourne Grammar School
Jerry Li	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School
Evan Lin	VIC	Melbourne High School
Arthur Sun	VIC	Scotch College

International Mathematical Olympiad
Competing in Japan, 2-13 July 2023

William Cheah	VIC	Scotch College
Sizhe Pan	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School
Zian Shang	VIC	Scotch College
Christopher Tran	VIC	The University High School
Cloris Xu	NSW	Baulkham Hills High School
Iris Xu	NSW	Baulkham Hills High School

International Physics Olympiad team
Competing Japan, 10-17 July 2023

Kelvin Chan	QLD	ALD Academy for Science, Mathematics & Technology
Liam Chen	VIC	Scotch College
Susan He	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School
Douglas Joshi	VIC	Balwyn High School
Alastair Murphy	VIC	Trinity Grammar School Kew

Media contacts

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Media background

The International Science Olympiads is an annual competition comprising 14 separate science and maths-related Olympiad events. Around 100 countries send delegations of between four and eight students to represent their country in each of the events.

Australian Science Innovations (ASI) provides the pathways for Australian students to enter the International Earth Science Olympiad, the International Physics Olympiad, the International Chemistry Olympiad, the International Junior Science Olympiad and the International Biology Olympiad. The Australian Maths Trust (AMT) supports students competing in the International Informatics Olympiad and the International Mathematical Olympiad.

Olympiad programs are funded through the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, with additional support from the Australian National University.

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