

Schools Geology Challenge 2026:

Terms and Conditions for Finalists

1. Reaching the Final

Judges working in the geoscience and education profession mark all qualifier entries. The teams who submit the 10 highest scoring entries are invited to take part in the Final.

- If a team is unable to attend the final, the 11th placed team will be invited to take part. This will be applied up to the 13th-placed team.
- If multiple teams from one school enter the Qualifiers, but do not all make it to the Final, the max number of students in the team attending the Final is still capped at six pupils.
- The Final is judged by a panel of geoscience professionals. They will decide on one winner and one runner up team. The judges' decision is final.

Schools may bring extra pupils and/or staff to the final. However, expenses **will not** be provided for more than six students and one accompanying staff member (see section 2). In addition, students surplus to the team taking part in the Final **will not** be able to join in the activity as part of a competing team.

2. Expenses and attending the Final

The 2025 Schools Geology Challenge Final will take place from 10.00am until 4.30pm on 19 March 2026.

The Final will be an in-person event in Burlington, London, and all teams wishing to compete must attend in person. Finalists should aim to arrive between 10.00 and 10.20am for registration. The absolute latest time teams can arrive in order to take part is 11.15am.

All students must be accompanied by a teacher.

Teams are invited to claim a travel and accommodation reimbursement of up to £1000 per team.

- Proof of purchase must be provided when claiming reimbursement.
- Expenses must be claimed **within six months** of the competition final.

We ask that if your school can arrange to cover all or a part of the cost of travel to the Final that you do so and communicate with us to allow us to re-apportion funds to support schools with greater financial needs to take part.

If you have to leave before 6:30am on the day of the competition to arrive on time due to distance from Burlington House please book overnight accommodation for the night before the competition. This can be claimed in your reimbursement, please contact us if you need assistance in exploring options.

If you believe you have extenuating circumstances that require further support to attend the Final, please contact us at education@geolsoc.org.uk as maintaining equity of access for all competing teams is our ultimate aim.

All competing students in your school's team and the teacher who attends the competition must fill out a feedback form after the competition before any reimbursement claims will be paid.

3. Prizes

Schools Geology Challenge: Rules

3.1 Winners

The winning team of the Schools Geology Challenge will receive:

- An engraved trophy
- £500 to support the furtherance of geoscience education in their school

Each student in the winning team will also receive:

- A certificate
- A year's student membership of The Geological Society

3.2 Runners up

The runner up team will receive:

- A certificate
- £200 to support the furtherance of geoscience education in their school

All finalists will receive a certificate of participation.

3.3 Claiming prizes

- Cash prizes must be used to support the furtherance of geoscience education within the winning teams' school. Teachers or adult supervisors of teams will be issued a "payment requisition form" for the appropriate amount in GBP. This must be returned to education@geolsoc.org.uk **within six months** of the competition Final in order to claim any prize money. We require a **brief report within one year of the award that illustrates** how the money has been or is being used, including pictures if possible.
- Instructions to claim a year's free student membership from The Geological Society will be emailed to the teacher or adult supervisor of the winning team. The membership offer must be claimed **within six months** of the competition Final.
- All certificates of participation will be posted to finalists after the competition has finished.