

Author: Alex van der Wateren, for The Intellectuals' Challenge 2018 Cambridge (final draft)
Link: <http://www.intellectualschallenge.org/about-tic/#tab-a2221ea59597cdb7953>

The Intellectuals' Challenge: an international competition for students aged 14-18

Curiosity is a joy forever because with it, you will never be bored! It is a key trait that the brightest minds share, whether that is an interest in the lives of other people, wanting to understand how space flight works or why Shakespeare was, and remains, so popular. The Intellectuals' Challenge is an international competition to tap into and encourage this curiosity in young people. In it, students aged 14-18 will compete across different challenges and disciplines. In this blog, we will share the competition's aims, details about the tournament and how you can sign up for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Challenging the leaders of the future

With [The Intellectuals' Challenge \(TIC\)](#) we want curious students to challenge their intellectual capabilities, learn to handle real-life problems in a creative and confident way, and to celebrate their own and others' achievements. Taking part will help build students' self-confidence whilst they meet other curious and bright students from all walks of life. Contestants will bolster their collaborative skills and see how each person brings their own strengths to the team. In this way, we can give the next generation of leaders experiences and skills that will be of benefit to them with every future endeavour. Attendants will leave with memories of a challenging but rewarding experience—something they will remember for life!

TIC 2018: Cambridge

TIC will take place on April 20-23, 2018, in Cambridge (UK). It is an international competition in which individual students (registration now closed) and teams of three take part. This year's theme is 'Failure: Road to Success'. We all know that if you don't play, you can't win—this applies to all aspects of life. So, why then are we so afraid of failing? Failure is a necessary part of growth and development and it is something we should embrace, not mock or fear.

The competition for teams consists of four team challenges. The students will acquire and develop different skills in each. One challenge is all about knowledge, so students will try to score points individually on a multiple-choice exam. Another challenge asks teams to explore a topic through brainstorming, resulting in an essay. Teams will also compete together against other teams by answering questions: pick harder questions for more points but risk not knowing the answer! This requires both strategy and a bit of luck. The fourth challenge encourages students to consider arguments both for and against a position. This will inspire participants to look beyond their own opinions and experiences, which will help strengthen their skills to make up their own mind and to debate others.

Teams sign up for the discipline of their choosing: social sciences, art and design, science and technology, economics and business, or literature and culture. Each discipline will thus come up with new views on failure, and how it can be a key component of success. A primary take-away will be that failure is normal, and that it is through failure that we achieve success!

Not only will students take part in intellectually stimulating challenges, they will also explore a little bit of the UK and get to know each other better through social events. One of these events is a punting tour of Cambridge. This is one of the best ways to explore the rich history and architecture of Cambridge's colleges. Some famous sights you might see are the Mathematical Bridge and The Backs. A day-trip to London is another organised outing as part of TIC and promises to be a great experience for all attendants.

Opportunities to get involved

Are you interested in supervising your own team in TIC? In this position, you can play a key role in an exciting and once-in-a-lifetime experience for young people. You will accompany your team throughout the event to make sure it understands the rules of each challenge and to encourage and support the team members as required. As a supervisor, you can volunteer to judge a challenge too! You can enter your team until March 31, 2018.

Do you want to take part in the competition, either as a student or a supervisor? Visit [our website](#) for details and to sign up!