



AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program



AAPG's Imperial Barrel Award Program (IBA) is an annual basin/prospect evaluation competition for geoscience graduate students from universities around the world. University teams compete to win scholarship funds dedicated to graduate student petroleum geoscience education. The program is rigorous and contributes to AAPG's mission of promoting petroleum geoscience training and advancing the careers of geoscience students.

In this global competition, university teams analyze a dataset (geology, geophysics, land, economics, production infrastructure, and other relevant materials) in the eight (8) weeks prior to their local competition. Each team delivers their results in a 25 minute presentation to a panel of industry experts. Students have the chance to use real technology on a real dataset, receive the feedback from an industry panel, have the opportunity to impress potential employers in the audience, and the chance to win cash awards for their schools. The industry panel of judges will select the winning team on the basis of the technical quality, clarity and originality of its presentation.

The IBA is a hands-on opportunity for students to experience the creative process and the high-tech science that is the foundation of the Energy Industry today.

Background

The 'Barrel Award' has been part of the MSc Petroleum Geoscience course at Imperial College for the past 30 years. Started in 1976, the program originally focused on the North Sea -- a frontier basin where interpretations required using color pencils. Today, Imperial and the IBA use new technology to provide students a unique learning experience using data sets from basins around the world.

Although the technology has changed, the key learning elements of the program remain remarkably similar to the original concepts pioneered by Imperial College. Teams must demonstrate:

1. evidence of rigorous and creative technical evaluations
2. the ability to work to a strict deadline
3. the ability to work effectively within a team
4. the ability to make decisions based on incomplete or inadequate data
5. the ability to give lucid oral presentations to a panel of senior industry experts.

Program Specifics

Team makeup:

1. Teams are expected to comprise graduate students only. As of January 1st of the competition year, 2 team members may be in their third academic year of graduate training, while the other team members must be in their first or second year of graduate training.
2. Participants must be full-time students with experience of no more than 6 months of industry internships or no more than 6 months of full-time employment as a professional geologist. Students who have worked as geologic technicians, data analysts, etc. will not have this work experience count toward their allowed 6 months.

3. There must be no fewer than 4 and no more than 5 team members per team. All team members must be present at the local and global competitions for the team to be eligible to compete. Special circumstances must be cleared 2 weeks prior to the competition date with the local or global committees respectively. Teams may not change team members between the local and global competitions.
4. All students on the team must speak equally during the presentation. The language of the presentation will be exclusively English without the aid of interpreters.
5. No student shall be allowed to compete in the IBA more than once. Previous experience would give that student's team an edge during competition and would deprive an inexperienced student of having the chance to participate.

Datasets

(Only schools that make it to the competition are allowed to retain the datasets as teaching tools):

- Regional in scale, with 2D/3D seismic and well data (e.g. petrophysical logs, cores, core analysis results, pressures, fluids, well tests, etc.).
- Schools may do a literature search and may only acquire free data OUTSIDE the area of interest. No data may be acquired or purchased inside the area of interest.
- The IBA committee will provide one (1) dataset to each school per contest year. Data will be provided to the participating schools eight (8) weeks prior to the date of their local competition.
- Schools are encouraged to donate datasets to the IBA technical library. After evaluation and acceptance, the dataset will be included in the normal dataset rotation. However, a school will not be allowed to use its own dataset because it may derive a competitive advantage from prior analytic experience.

Evaluation goals:

1. Complete a technical assessment of the petroleum potential of the basin/area.
2. Define the key plays, petroleum systems, leads/prospects (including economics), and risks.
3. Make recommendations on future exploration activity based on prevailing technical and economic conditions.

How It Works:

Universities with enough qualified students and a willing faculty advisor apply to participate in the program. Universities compete at the Regional or Sectional semi-final competitions. The top team from each Region and Section competes at the Imperial Barrel Award competition at the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE).

AAPG and corporate sponsors provide funds for the Section/Region representative university teams' (five students and one faculty advisor) transportation, housing, and convention registration at the Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE). Note that meals outside of those provided during the contest and other expenses (taxis, toothbrushes, etc.) are NOT covered by the AAPG or corporate sponsors.

Competition Logistics for the Final:

- Up to six Section Teams and up to six Region Teams will assemble on the Friday prior to the ACE before a panel of judges. Each team will be allowed 25 minutes for their presentations.
- The following Monday winners will be announced at the Student Reception and Awards ceremony

Awards

The following awards are given to the winning teams during the Student Reception:

- First:** The Imperial Barrel Award (plus \$20,000)
Second: The Selley Cup (plus \$10,000)
Third: The Stoneley Medal (plus \$5,000)
Honorable Mention: All remaining teams (plus \$1000 each)

Each school will be provided:

- Introductory review and specific competition forms
- Rules and Regulations
- Judging Sheet
- Copy of an actual student presentation
- The PowerPoint introductory lecture by Dr. Howard Johnson at Imperial College, explaining what the program is about and how to work the datasets
- A datasets to use for the contest
- The opportunity to request software that has been made available by several sponsors for teams to use in making their analysis
- Materials specific to the local competition and Annual Convention and Exhibit

2011 General Timetable:

- **Immediately** contact Carol McGowen, Mike Mlynek, or your local Section or Region IBA Coordinator for application information. This will be published on the IBA website (<http://www.aapg.org/iba/SectionRegion.cfm>).
- **November 29, 2010** - IBA interest forms are due to AAPG.
- **December 6, 2010** - Participating teams and the date of the local competition will be confirmed by the Section or Region coordinator to AAPG.
- **December 15, 2010** - Beginning of the dataset distribution to participating schools. Watch the IBA website for details.
- **December 17, 2010** - All Regions must formulate a strategy for obtaining travel visas for their teams and communicate it, along with any requests for assistance, to the AAPG Assistant Manager Member Services (Student Focus), Mike Mlynek.
- **March 1– March 25, 2011** - Section and Regional competitions held.
- **March 25, 2011** - Details of winning local teams must be sent to the AAPG Assistant Manager Member Services (Student Focus), Mike Mlynek, for the process of booking travel and designating lodging to begin.
- **April 8 & 9, 2011** - Competition Friday and Saturday prior to the AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition (April 10 -13) in Houston, Texas.

- **April 11, 2010** - IBA Awards Presentation at the Student Awards Banquet.

Summary:

Imperial Barrel Award student participants receive real world experience with their performance judged by industry experts, a chance to travel to the premier industry event to network with both future colleagues and future employers, and a chance to win accolades for themselves and cash awards for their schools. Take this opportunity to encourage geoscience graduate students to explore what the energy industry has to offer.

If you are interested in taking part, please send the attached registration sheet to your local Section or Region IBA representative and to Mike or Carol. Please refer any technical dataset questions or dataset donations to Tim Berge. Thanks.

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Data Sets:

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AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program College/University Interest Form



Yes, our school wishes to participate in the 2011 AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Section or Region semi-final competitions. If selected to represent our Section or Region, we also agree to travel to the AAPG Annual Convention in Houston, Texas to compete on April 8 and 9.

School Name: _____

Physical Address: _____
NO P.O. BOXES

Only an accredited faculty member of the school may register a school for participation in the AAPG IBA program. Such enrollment must be confirmed as approved by the Dean or Chair of the effected department of the institution.

Primary Contact

MUST BE A FACULTY MEMBER

Faculty Contact: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Secondary Contact

MAY BE FACULTY OR STUDENT ON YOUR TEAM

Contact: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Team Member Names:

Please list up to five (5) students that make up your team. If unknown at this time you must submit to AAPG at least two weeks before any section or region competition. _____

Additional Information:

In the space provided below, please specify computer software and hardware to be used in competition for dataset formatting. Please contact Tim Berge for answers about technical issues.

Agreement to Rules & Regulations – SIGNATURE REQUIRED

By having a school faculty member submit this form, participants acknowledge that they have read the Rules and Regulations governing the contest and that their participation has been approved by the Dean or Chairman of their department. Participants understand that transportation and lodging expenses to compete and attend the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition will be provided at no cost for five students and one faculty advisor, if they are selected to attend.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information contact:

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Carol McGowen

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Please send this completed form to Carol, Mike, or your IBA Coordinator. Email preferred. Your name typed on the "Signature" line serves as your signature.