



## AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program



The AAPG Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) is an annual basin/prospect evaluation competition for geoscience graduate students. The program is rigorous and contributes to AAPG's mission of promoting petroleum geoscience training and advancing geoscience students. University teams analyze a dataset in the 6-8 weeks prior to their local competition and deliver 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 prizes for their schools.

### Background

The 'Barrel Award' at Imperial College has been part of the MSc Petroleum Geoscience course at Imperial College since 1976. The program originally focused on the North Sea, which at the time was a frontier basin where interpretations required the use of color pencils. Today Imperial College and the IBA use new technology to provide students the opportunity to interpret and evaluate vast data sets from around the world.

Although the technologies have changed, the key learning elements of the program remain remarkably similar to the original concepts. 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 inadequate data, and (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):

1. Regional in scale, with 2D/3D seismic and well data (e.g. petrophysical logs, cores, core analysis results, pressures, fluids, well tests, etc.).
2. Schools may do a literature search and may only acquire free data OUTSIDE the area of interest. No data may be acquired inside the area of interest or purchased.
3. One dataset per school year will be provided by the IBA committee via CD or DVD mailed to participating schools 8 weeks prior to the date of their local competition.
4. 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 prospectivity 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.
- AAPG and corporate sponsors provide funds for the 5 students' and 1 advisor's transportation, housing, and convention registration at the semi-finals (if funding is available) and the Annual Meeting. Note that meals outside of those listed below and other expenses (taxis, toothbrushes, etc.) are NOT covered by the AAPG or corporate sponsors.
- Competition Logistics for the Final:
  - o Up to six Section Teams and up to six Region Teams will assemble on the Friday prior to the Annual Meeting before a panel of judges. Each team will be allowed 25 minutes for their presentations.
  - o The following Monday winners will be announced at the Student Reception and Awards ceremony
- Awards are given to the winning teams during the Student Reception.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: The Imperial Barrel Award (plus \$20,000)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Selley Cup (plus \$10,000)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Stoneley Medal (plus \$5,000)
  - All other teams: Honorable Mention Prize (\$1000 for each team)
- Each school will be provided :
  - Introductory review and specific competition forms
  - Copy of the judging form.
  - Copy of a previous student presentation
  - Copy of the introductory lecture by Dr. Howard Johnson at Imperial College, explaining to students what the program is all about and how to work the datasets.
  - Materials specific to the local competition and Annual Convention.
  - The datasets to use in the program.
  - Invitations to the AAPG Student Reception at the Annual Convention

### 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 ([www.aapg.com/iba](http://www.aapg.com/iba)).
- **November 27, 2009** - IBA interest forms are due to AAPG.
- **December 7, 2009** - Participating teams and the date of the local competition will be confirmed by the Section or Region coordinator to AAPG.
- **December 18, 2009** - 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.
- **First week of January 2010** - Beginning of the dataset distribution to participating schools. Watch the IBA website for details.
- **March 1–March 30, 2010** - Section and Regional competitions held.
- **March 31, 2010** - 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 9 & 10, 2010** - Competition Friday and Saturday prior to the AAPG National Convention (April 11-14) in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- **April 12, 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 prizes 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 or to Mike or Carol. Please refer any technical dataset questions or dataset donations to Tim Berge. Thanks.

**2010 AAPG IBA Chairperson:**

Steve Veal  
[sveal@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sveal@ix.netcom.com)  
UK: 011.44.2075.943.283

**AAPG Member Services Assistant Manager:**

Mike Mlynek  
[students@aapg.org](mailto:students@aapg.org)  
1.918.560.2653

**AAPG Sections and Regions Manager:**

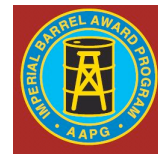
Carol McGowen  
[cmcgowen@aapg.org](mailto:cmcgowen@aapg.org)  
1.918.560.9403

**2009 AAPG IBA Technical Subcommittee:**

Tim Berge  
[tbberge@hotmail.com](mailto:tbberge@hotmail.com)  
1.303.894.8811



## AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program College/University Interest Form



Yes, our school wishes to participate in the 2010 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 New Orleans, Louisiana to compete on April 9 and 10.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Faculty Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Faculty Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.

For more information contact:

**Mike Mlynek**

[mikem@aapg.org](mailto:mikem@aapg.org)

US: 001-918-560-2653

**Carol McGowen**

[cmcgowen@aapg.org](mailto:cmcgowen@aapg.org)

US: 001-918-560-9403

**Tim Berge**

[tbberge@hotmail.com](mailto:tbberge@hotmail.com)

UK: 011.44.2075.943.283

Please email this completed form to Carol, Mike, or your IBA Coordinator.