

AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program Information for Prospective Participants



AAPG's Imperial Barrel Award Program (IBA) is an annual prospective basin evaluation competition for geoscience graduate students from universities around the world. University teams compete to win scholarship funds for their geoscience department and the international recognition that comes from competing or winning in the competition. 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, production infrastructure, and other relevant materials) in the eight weeks prior to their local competition. Each team delivers their results and recommendations in a 25 minute presentation to a panel of industry experts. Students have the opportunity to use state of the art technology on a real dataset, receive feedback from an industry panel, impress potential employers in the audience, and win cash awards for their school. The judges will select the winning team on the basis of the technical quality, clarity and originality of 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.

Imperial Barrel Award Background

The 'Barrel Award' has been part of the MSc Petroleum Geoscience course at Imperial College in the UK for the many years. The Imperial College program started in 1976, and focused on the North Sea; seismic interpretation was done with color pencils.

AAPG adopted the program concept in 2007 and created a new competition that allows students from almost every country to participate. The competitions 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 true to the original concepts pioneered by Imperial College. Teams must demonstrate:

- Evidence of rigorous and creative technical evaluations
- The ability to work to a strict deadline
- The ability to work effectively within a team
- The ability to make decisions based on incomplete or inadequate data
- The ability to give lucid oral presentations to a panel of senior industry experts.

The Program

Team Members

1. Teams should be composed of Master level students. No team may have more than two PhD students on their team.
2. Students must have full-time enrollment status in the school participating in the AAPG IBA program. Students should have no more than one year cumulative professional petroleum exploration experience.

3. There may be special circumstances that allow exceptions to the above rules. Exception requests must be submitted to the local IBA committee and cleared no later than two weeks prior to any competition dates.
4. There must be no fewer than four and no more than five members per team. The same team members must compete at the local and global competitions. Team members may not be changed between the local and global competitions.
5. All students on the team must speak equally during the presentation. The de-facto language of the presentations in the Region, Section, and Finals competition shall be English. AAPG is not responsible for supplying or paying for an interpreter for any competition.
6. No student is to compete in the IBA more than once. Previous experience would give that student's team an advantage during competition and would deprive an inexperienced student of having the chance to participate.

Datasets

1. Only schools that participate in at least the local competition may retain the datasets as teaching tools.
2. Datasets are regional in scale, with 2D/3D seismic and well data (e.g. petrophysical logs, cores, core analysis results, pressures, fluids, well tests).
3. Team members may do a literature search. They may acquire free data OUTSIDE the area of interest. No data may be acquired inside the area of interest.
4. The IBA committee will provide one dataset to each school per competition year. Data will be provided to the participating schools eight weeks before their local competition.
5. Schools which have datasets from other sources are encouraged to donate them 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, and risks.
3. Make recommendations on future exploration activity based on prevailing technical and economic conditions.

The Competitions

Universities with enough qualified students and a willing faculty advisor may apply to participate in the program. Universities initially compete at the Region or Section level. The top team from each Region and Section competes in the Imperial Barrel Award Finals competition at the AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE).

AAPG Sections and Regions through generous sponsors provide funding to offset reasonable travel costs, housing and some food for the local competitions.

The Finals

1. AAPG and corporate sponsors provide funds for the Section/Region representative teams' (five students and one faculty advisor) transportation, housing, and convention registration at the ACE. Note that meals outside of those provided during the competition and other expenses (transportation not directly associated with the competition, personal amenities, spending money, etc) are NOT covered by the AAPG or corporate sponsors.
2. Up to six Section teams and up to six Region teams will present on the Friday and Saturday prior to the ACE before a panel of judges. Each team will be allowed 25 minutes for their presentations.
3. Finals awards will be presented on Sunday immediately prior to the ACE Opening Session.
4. The following awards are given to the participating teams in the finals:

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)

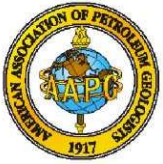
Deliverables from AAPG

The school will receive the following:

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

2012 General Timetable

- **Immediately** - Contact Mike Mlynek, your local Section or Region IBA Coordinator that you are interested in competing. Fill out an Application and send to AAPG. An application is attached to this document and is available on the IBA website (<http://www.aapg.org/iba/SectionRegion.cfm>).
- **December 1, 2011** - IBA application forms are due to AAPG.
- **December 9, 2011** - Participating teams and the date of the local competition will be confirmed by the Section or Region coordinator to AAPG.
- **December 16, 2011** - 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.
- **December 19, 2011** - Beginning of the dataset distribution to participating schools. Watch the IBA website for details.
- **February 15 – April 6, 2012** - Section and Regional competitions held. The winning team's PowerPoint presentation must be sent to Mike Mlynek (MMlynek@aapg.org) within one week after the Section or Region event.
- **April 6, 2012** - Local competition results must be sent to the AAPG Assistant Manager Member Services (Student Focus), Mike Mlynek, to begin booking travel.
- **April 20 & 21, 2012** - Competition Friday and Saturday prior to the AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition (April 22 -25) in Long Beach, California.
- **April 22, 2012** - IBA Awards Presentation 3:00 PM, Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ballroom.



AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program

College/University Interest Form



Yes, our school wishes to participate in the 2012 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 Long Beach, California to compete on April 20 and 21.

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 competition 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:

Mike Mlynec
 AAPG Member Services
mikem@aapg.org
 +1-918-560-2653

Steve Veal
 IBA Chair
sveal@ix.netcom.com
 +1-303-233-3585

Tim Berge
 IBA Technical Subcommittee
tbberge@hotmail.com
 +1.303.894.8811

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