Participant FAQ

IESNYC Student Lighting Competition 2020

Eligibility and Sign-Up

1. I live outside New York City. May I submit?

   Any students attending a design college or university located in the five boroughs of New York City, or the New York counties of the former Mid-Hudson Section (Columbia, Dutchess, Green, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester) are eligible to submit. Students ideally will have taken a lighting course within their current tenure, but exceptions can be made by contacting the competition committee via email at studentcompetition@iesnyc.org.

2. When do you begin accepting applications?

   The application period opens December 20th, 2019.

3. When do you stop accepting applications?

   The application period closes on February 16th, 2020.

4. Can teams of students submit one project?

   Yes. During the application process, designate a single member as the group leader. This person will register your entire group. Other members should be listed in the comments of your application.

5. What are the intellectual property details of this competition? Do I retain ownership of my submission?

   The IESNYC will not retain nor request ownership of any submissions. Entries will be on public display. Photographs and video will be taken and published by the IESNYC. Winners’ names, schools, degrees, and instructors will be credited.
6. Will my project be returned to me?

Yes. All submissions will be held by the IESNYC for a public exhibition. All submissions must be picked between 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM on the day of the competition. Any submissions that are not claimed by 11:00 PM on the day of the competition will be discarded.

Projects

1. What is a project?

A project is our way of referring to the final submitted items from the competitors. Each project should be a 3-dimensional study that utilizes light to capture the competition’s theme. The projects will be viewed by judges and guests in a gallery setting, with the typical maximum viewing range of approximately 3 feet. Most projects are placed on tabletops, are freestanding, or are hung from the ceiling, and typically can be viewed from one side.

There are some physical limitations on the project (which are listed below), but for the most part the projects are intended to be as open-ended as possible. Let creativity be your guide!

2. Are there any physical limitations on my project?

Yes. Projects are limited to 30” wide x 18” deep per person. Projects heights are limited in practicality and mounting method only. Vertical height in the space is limited to approximately 12’-0”.

3. Do group projects get more space?

Yes. Group projects may pool the maximum width of their project. For example, a 3-person group gets a 90” wide x 18” deep surface to display their project.

4. Can any exceptions be made to these physical limitations?

Yes. If you or your group requires additional space to implement your project, please
email studentcompetition@iesnyc.org. You must request additional space by February 6th, 2020 (approximately 1.5 weeks prior to the application deadline, and 1 month prior to the competition itself). Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and not every request will be honored.

5. How do I display my project submission?

Projects must be mounted in one of the following configurations:

a. Floor – i.e. free-standing
b. Table – i.e. standing on a table, with a surface at approximately 30” high
c. Pendant – i.e. hanging from the ceiling
   i. Pendant mounted projects are limited to 20 pounds per mounting point.
      Projects should work to minimize mounting points, as multiple mounting points provide significant challenges in mounting your project.
d. Wall – i.e. leaning against a wall
   i. Projects cannot be mounted to the wall – i.e. no nails, tape, or other fixing material may be used to attach to the wall. A hook will be provided, which will allow for projects to mount via string or similar method. (Imagine a picture frame). In order to ensure your project mounts at eye height, build enough extra slack into your project to allow for on-site adjustment.

6. Do I need to decide the mounting configuration of my project ahead of time?

Ideally, yes – but we acknowledge this may not be possible. If you know your mounting method when registering, please provide it in the comments of your application process. Listing the mounting of your project during application will guarantee you an appropriate spot for your project (i.e. appropriate mounting location for hanging project, location on wall for wall project, etc).

7. Should my name be on my project?

No. Under no circumstances should your name appear on your project. Upon arriving
the day of the event, each group will be handed an index card sized piece of paper with a number. All projects will be required to display this paper, and this paper will need to be flipped over during the judging process. On the front will be your application number, and on the back will be your name (or the names of those in your group). You may choose to include a location in your project for this paper; otherwise, the card will be placed near your project. If your project is pendant-mounted, your card will be attached to the vertical support.

8. How do I know where to place my project in the room?

   Project placement will be decided upon check-in the day of the event. Projects that have designated their mounting will be guaranteed an appropriate mounting location; otherwise, mounting locations are first-come, first-serve. There are limits on the number of mounting locations, so arrive at check-in early.

9. What time does check-in begin?

   Check-in and project setup begins at 7:30 AM the morning of the event. Set aside enough time to check in, find a location, and set up your project.

10. Are presentation boards required?

    No. Presentation boards are not required with your submitted project. You may include a brief description or instructions, but these are not required and may not be read by judges. Consider them supplement only.

11. Are we required to present out submission to the judges?

    No. Presentations by students are not required or allowed. The judging process is closed to participants and the public.

12. Should I bring an extension cord?

    Yes. Bring additional extensions cords and/or adapter plugs. Be sure to label any equipment you bring, in order to ensure they are returned at the end of the competition. Also, double check whether three-prong adapters for grounded plugs are required for your project.
13. Can I create a project that is battery powered?

Yes. If you’re using batteries, plan on bringing additional batteries in order for your project to be illuminated for the entire day, as well as the evening reception. Based on previous years of experience, batteries will most likely drain during judging and will require replacing before the reception begins.

14. Is [x] allowed in the construction of my project?

The following items are not allowed in projects:

a. Liquids

b. Candles or open flames

c. Live animals

15. May I submit photographs, rather than a physical project?

While you may include photographs or images as part of your submission, this competition is not a photography competition. Photographs will not be formally judged.