

The First Summer International Scientific Essay Competition

"Climate Change: History-Law-Society"

Competition Rules

§ 1 General Provisions

1. These rules define the principles and conditions for participation in the 1st Summer International Scientific Essay Competition "Climate Change: History-Law-Society" (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition").
2. The Organizer of the Competition is the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences, Rynek Staromiejski 36/38, 87-100 Toruń, NIP 9562400376, REGON 540765322, <http://www.ilecs.pl>.
3. The Competition aims to:
 - Support the scientific development of young researchers in an interdisciplinary approach to climate change issues.
 - Popularize knowledge about climate change and its consequences.
 - Promote innovative thinking and interdisciplinary approaches to climate issues.
 - Enable young scientists to present their views, research, and analyses.
4. The Competition Rules are available on the website <http://www.ilecs.pl>.
5. The content of these Rules in Polish and English is equivalent.

§ 2 Competition Participants

1. The Competition is open to:
 - Students of Bachelor's, Engineering, and Master's degree programs (uniform or second-cycle);
 - Doctoral students (participants of doctoral schools run by entities authorized by national law);
 - Young scientists, i.e., individuals who started working as an academic teacher for the first time no earlier than 3 years before the Competition announcement date (i.e., after July 3, 2022). This period may be extended by documented career breaks (e.g., maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave), in accordance with the principles adopted in higher education.

2. Participants must demonstrate an active student/doctoral student status or research experience meeting the criteria specified in point 1.
3. Each participant may submit only one essay to the Competition.
4. Participation in the Competition is free of charge and voluntary.

§ 3 Theme and Formal Requirements

1. The essay's theme must concern climate change. Participants may focus on any aspect of this issue within one of the three categories below:
 - I - Climate change and human rights
 - II - Reflections on climate in antiquity and the Middle Ages
 - III - Social consequences of climate change
2. The essay should be scientific in nature, meaning it must:
 - be based on reliable scientific sources (peer-reviewed monographs and scientific articles, scientific reports, etc.).
 - be characterized by clarity of argumentation and precision of language.
 - Include footnotes and a bibliography / list of cited literature.
3. Formal requirements for the essay:
 - Length: No more than 20,000 characters, including spaces, special characters, footnotes, and bibliography.
 - Format: File in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
 - Font: Times New Roman, size 12 pt.
 - Line Spacing: 1.5
 - Margins: 2.5 cm (bottom, top, right, and left).
 - Structure: The essay should include a title, abstract (up to 250 words), keywords (3-5), main body, footnotes (if used), and bibliography.
 - Anonymization: The essay must not contain any personal data of the Author. All identifying data of the Author should be included in a separate application form.
4. Essays submitted for the competition may be prepared in Polish or English.

§ 4 Submissions and Deadlines

1. Submissions for the Competition are accepted from July 3, 2025, to October 31, 2025, until 23:59 CEST (UTC +02:00).
2. Submission is done by sending:
 - The essay in electronic form to the e-mail address: instytut@ilecs.pl.

- A completed and signed (electronically or scanned) Application Form, constituting Appendix No. 1 to these Rules, to the e-mail address: instytut@ilecs.pl.
 - A Declaration of Young Scientist/Doctoral Student/Student Status, constituting Appendix No. 2 to these Rules, to the e-mail address: instytut@ilecs.pl.
 - Signed GDPR Information Clause - Appendix No. 3 to these Rules, to the e-mail address: instytut@ilecs.pl.
3. The subject line of the e-mail must state: "First Summer International Scientific Essay Competition – [Author's First Name and Last Name]".
 4. Sending the essay along with the application form is equivalent to accepting these Rules.
 5. Works submitted after the deadline, not containing all the appendices indicated in §4 point 2 of the Rules, or not meeting the formal requirements described in §3 of the Rules, will not be considered.

§ 5 Evaluation and Criteria

1. Submitted works will be evaluated by an international Competition Committee appointed by the Organizer. The composition of the Committee will be announced on the website www.ilecs.pl after the end of the submission period.
2. Essay evaluation criteria:
 - Compliance with the Competition theme (0-5 points).
 - Substantive and scientific value (0-20 points) – relevance of argumentation, originality of approach, quality and reliability of sources, factual correctness.
 - Essay structure and logic (0-10 points) – coherence, clarity, transparency of reasoning.
 - Language and style (0-5 points) – linguistic correctness (spelling, grammar, stylistics), precision and clarity of formulations, scientific character.
 - Innovativeness and potential for further research/development (0-10 points).
3. The decisions of the Competition Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

§ 6 Awards

1. The following prizes are awarded for each competition category listed in §3 point 1 of the Rules:

I Place:

- Publication of the winning essay in a scientific monograph published by the Organizer.
- A voucher worth EUR 80.00 (eighty euro 0/100) for participation in scientific conferences organized by the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences.
- A book prize.
- A commemorative diploma.

II Place:

- Publication of the winning essay in a scientific monograph published by the Organizer.
- A voucher worth EUR 40.00 (forty euro 0/100) for participation in scientific conferences organized by the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences.
- A book prize.
- A commemorative diploma.

III Place:

- Publication of the winning essay in a scientific monograph published by the Organizer.
- A voucher worth EUR 20.00 (twenty euro 0/100) for participation in scientific conferences organized by the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences.
- A book prize.
- A commemorative diploma.

Distinctions: [Optional, e.g., diplomas, small gifts].

2. The Organizer reserves the right not to award all prizes or to award prizes of a different value, in the case of too low a scientific level of the submitted works.
3. Information about the Competition results will be published on the website www.ilecs.pl by December 31, 2025. Awarded participants will be notified electronically.
4. Prizes will be sent by postal mail.
1. Vouchers for participation in scientific conferences organized by the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences and other prizes cannot be exchanged for monetary value.

§ 7 Copyright

1. By submitting an essay to the Competition, the participant declares that they are the sole author of the essay, and that the work is original, does not infringe on copyrights or personal rights of third parties, and has not been previously published or awarded in other competitions.
2. Upon submission of the work to the Competition, the participant grants the Organizer a non-exclusive, gratuitous license to use the essay for purposes related to the Competition, in particular for: publication of the essay (in whole or in fragments) on the Organizer's website, in promotional materials for the Competition, and in a scientific monograph published by the Organizer.
3. The Organizer undertakes to always indicate the authorship of the essay.

§ 8 Personal Data Protection

1. The Administrator of personal data of the Competition participants is the Organizer: Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences, Rynek Staromiejski 36/38, 87-100 Toruń, NIP 9562400376, REGON 540765322, <http://www.ilecs.pl>.
2. Participants' personal data are processed solely for the purpose of organizing and conducting the Competition, including communication with participants, evaluation of works, announcement and publication of Competition results, prize delivery, and for reporting and archival purposes.
3. Providing data is voluntary, but failure to do so will prevent participation in the Competition.
4. The participant has the right to access their data, rectify it, erase it, restrict its processing, the right to data portability, the right to object to data processing, and the right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Personal Data Protection Office.
5. Detailed information regarding the processing of personal data can be found in Appendix No. 3 to these Rules (GDPR Information Clause).

§ 9 Final Provisions

1. The Organizer reserves the right to amend these Rules in justified cases. Information about any changes will be published on the Competition website.
2. In matters not regulated by these Rules, the relevant provisions of Polish law shall apply.
3. Any disputes arising from the Competition will be settled amicably.

4. In the event of a lack of agreement between the Parties to a dispute arising from the Competition, the court competent for the Organizer's registered office shall resolve it.

Appendices:

Appendix No. 1: Application Form

Appendix No. 2: Declaration of Young Scientist/Doctoral Student/Student Status

Appendix No. 3: GDPR Information Clause

Appendix No. 1: Application Form

First Summer International Scientific Essay Competition

"Climate Change: History-Law-Society"

I. Participant's Details:

First Name and Last Name:

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Correspondence Address (for prize delivery):

Street and Number:

Postal Code and City:

Country:

II. Participant Status Information:

Please mark the appropriate box with an X and complete App. No. 2:

☐ Student

☐ Doctoral Student

☐ Young Scientist

III. Essay Title:

IV. Selected Competition Category (as per § 3 point 1 of the Rules):

Please mark the appropriate box with an X:

☐ I - Climate change and human rights

☐ II - Reflections on climate in antiquity and the Middle Ages

☐ III - Social consequences of climate change

V. Essay Language:

Please mark the appropriate box with an X:

☐ Polish

☐ English

VI. Declaration

I hereby declare that:

I have read the Rules of the 1st Summer International Scientific Essay Competition "Climate Change: History-Law-Society" and accept all its provisions.

The essay submitted to the Competition is my original work, has not been previously published or awarded in other competitions, and does not infringe on the copyrights or personal rights of third parties.

I consent to the processing of my personal data contained in this form for the purpose of organizing and conducting the Competition, in accordance with Appendix No. 3 to the Rules.

Place and Date:

Participant's Signature:

Appendix No. 2: Declaration of Young Scientist/Doctoral Student/Student Status

First Summer International Scientific Essay Competition

"Climate Change: History-Law-Society"

I, the undersigned:

First Name and Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

I hereby declare that on the date of submitting the essay to the Competition, I hold the following status:

(Please mark the appropriate box and fill in the details)

- ☐ **I am a student of a Bachelor's / Engineering / Master's** (uniform or second-cycle) degree program at:
 - Name of University: _____
 - Field of Study: _____
 - Student ID number / Index number: _____
- ☐ **I am a doctoral student** (participant of a doctoral school) at:
 - Name of University/Institution running the doctoral school: _____
 - Doctoral student album number / Doctoral index number: _____
- ☐ **I am a young scientist**, i.e., an individual who started working as an academic teacher for the first time after July 3, 2022.
 - Name of employing institution: _____
 - Date of first employment as an academic teacher (dd.mm.yyyy): _____
 - In case of career breaks, in accordance with § 2 point 1 of the Rules, please indicate the duration of the break: from _____ to _____.

I confirm the truthfulness of the above data.

Place and Date:

Participant's Signature:

Appendix No. 3: GDPR Information Clause

First Summer International Scientific Essay Competition

"Climate Change: History-Law-Society"

In accordance with Article 13(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1–88), hereinafter referred to as GDPR, I hereby inform that:

1. The Administrator of your personal data is the Institute for Life, Environment and Climate Sciences, Rynek Staromiejski 36/38, 87-100 Toruń, NIP 9562400376, REGON 540765322 (hereinafter: "Administrator" or "Organizer").
2. Your personal data is processed for the purpose of organizing and conducting the 1st Summer International Scientific Essay Competition "Climate Change: History-Law-Society", including in particular for: a) Receiving applications and verifying compliance with the Competition's participation conditions, b) Communicating with Competition participants, c) Evaluating submitted essays by the Competition Committee, d) Announcing and publishing Competition results (names of laureates, essay title, competition category), e) Delivering prizes to laureates, f) Reporting and archival purposes.
3. The legal basis for data processing is your consent (Article 6(1)(a) GDPR), resulting from participation in the Competition and acceptance of its Rules, as well as the legitimate interest of the Administrator (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR) in organizing and promoting the Competition and fulfilling legal obligations incumbent on the Administrator (Article 6(1)(c) GDPR).
4. Recipients of your personal data may include members of the Competition Committee, individuals or entities providing IT services to the Administrator, and entities authorized to receive data under legal provisions. Data of laureates (first name, last name, essay title) will be published on the Organizer's website and in Competition promotional materials.
5. Your personal data will be stored for the period necessary to achieve the purposes for which it was collected, i.e., for the duration of the Competition and after its completion for archival and reporting purposes, in accordance with applicable law, but no longer than until the expiration of any potential claims. Data processed on the basis of consent will be stored until its withdrawal.

6. You have the right to: a) Access your personal data, b) Request rectification of your personal data, c) Request erasure of your personal data, d) Request restriction of processing of your personal data, e) Object to data processing, f) Data portability, g) Withdraw consent to data processing at any time without affecting the lawfulness of processing carried out on the basis of consent before its withdrawal, h) Lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority – the President of the Personal Data Protection Office (ul. Moniuszki 1A, 00-014 Warszawa), if you believe that the processing of your personal data violates GDPR provisions.
7. The provision of personal data is voluntary; however, it is necessary to participate in the Competition. Failure to provide data will prevent your participation.
8. Your personal data will not be processed in an automated manner and will not be subject to profiling.

I confirm that I have read the above GDPR Information Clause.

Place and Date:

Participant's Signature: