



All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

www.adaptcentre.ie/ailo



Test your mind...

against the world's toughest puzzles in logic, language and linguistics



Problem-Solving Initiative





Could you be Ireland's top young problem solver?

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR LOGIC, LATERAL THINKING AND LANGUAGES? COULD YOU DECIPHER AN ANCIENT SCRIPT, OR DECODE THE LOGICAL PATTERNS OF SWAHILI?

The All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) is the problem solvers' challenge. The national contest sees secondary school students develop their own strategies for solving complex problems in unfamiliar languages from around the globe.

No prior knowledge of linguistics or foreign languages is required. Even the hardest problems require only logical ability, patient work and a willingness to think around corners.

AILO introduces students to the application of logic and linguistics (i.e. the study of human language) to problems of language understanding and translation. The goal is to develop students' problem-solving skills and to inspire them to consider the fascinating range of careers at the intersection of computing, language and linguistics.

AILO is run by The ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology (www.adaptcentre.ie). ADAPT is a multidisciplinary academia-industry research centre funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and comprising 150 researchers at Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology.



18,000+
Contestants Since 2009

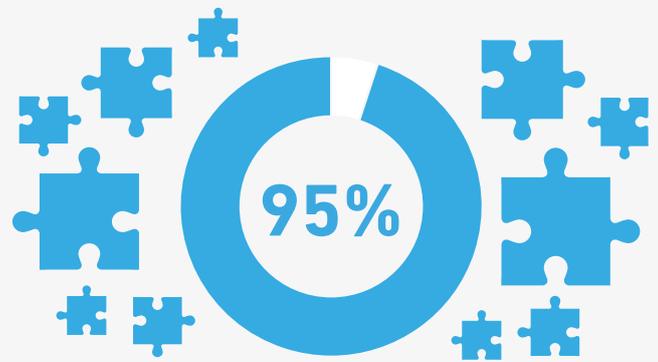


Who is eligible?

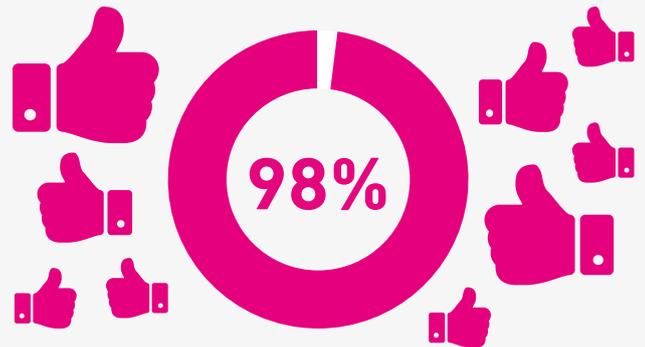
All second-level students from schools on the island of Ireland are eligible. There are Junior (under 16) and Senior (16 and over) categories, so students can participate at any stage in their second-level studies. Both Junior and Senior Category students take the same puzzles and are marked in the same way. However, we award prizes and trophies for the winners of each category. The overall top four students will be invited to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad.

Why take the challenge?

- Most importantly, because it's great fun! You'll enjoy solving the challenging puzzles while learning about the languages of the world.
- Sharpen your problem-solving skills in our free regional workshops. This will benefit you whatever career path you take, but will be particularly useful if you are thinking of a career in Computing, Linguistics, Languages, Engineering, Maths, Science or a combination of these disciplines.
- Enhance your CV or university application form by showing you have a logical mind and an ability to think outside the box.
- Win the chance to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad 2018.



of AILO participants say the contest enhanced their problem-solving skills*



of AILO contestants would recommend the competition to a friend*

What Past Contestants Say

"Being involved with AILO helped teach me some of the necessary problem-solving skills used in software programming. Some of the AILO questions were even used by my lecturers [at DCU] to demonstrate how to approach problems you have never seen before."

Robert Devereux, Amazon Web Services

"Wow! What an amazing brain workout!"

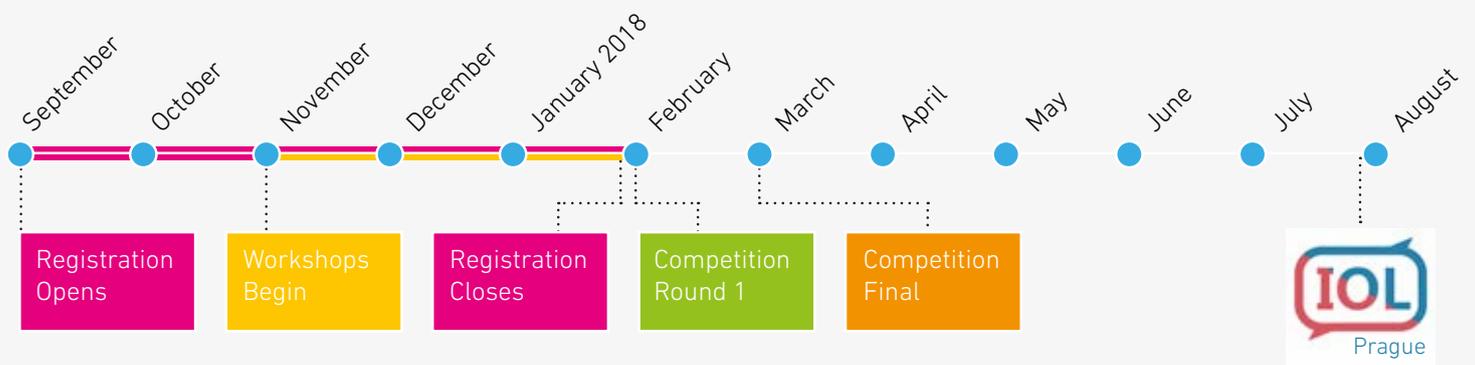
**Daria Biel,
Presentation Secondary School, Limerick**

"I found the puzzles challenging but worthwhile. Unknown languages make sense when you think about them. I especially liked the Egyptian question – it was so cool, I felt transported back in time."

**Bessie Pilinci,
Presentation Secondary School, Thurles**

"This competition has granted me an amazing opportunity to represent my country, and has really improved my problem-solving skills."

Daniel Herlihy, BA in World Languages, UCC



AILO Timeline

The AILO season runs from September to March. Registration closes on 19th January 2018. It is important, however, to register as early as possible to receive monthly sample puzzles for students to sharpen their problem-solving skills.

Free regional problem-solving workshops will take place in multiple locations around Ireland between November 2017 and January 2018.

The first round of competition will be held in your own school on 29th January 2018. The top 100 students from the first round will qualify to compete at the national final in Dublin in March 2018.

The top four students from the individual contest will win the opportunity to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad 2018 from 26th to 30th July 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic.

International Linguistics Olympiad

Prague has been selected to host the International Linguistics Olympiad 2018 (IOL 2018). IOL 2018 will bring together 180 of the world's top young problem solvers from 30 countries to pit their wits against the languages of the world. The hosts are the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University and the venue is the University of Life Sciences. Students will compete in individual and team contests. The fun-packed week also includes sightseeing, parties and cultural experiences. For more, see <http://www.ioling.org>

The Problem-Solving Initiative

AILO is a key element of the ADAPT Centre's Problem-Solving Initiative (PSI). This nationwide initiative aims to foster the next generation of problem solvers for Ireland. Supported by SFI, the PSI is designed to: help encourage people of all ages to hone their lateral-thinking skills; raise public awareness of the importance of problem-solving skills across science, the economy and society; and promote career pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for those who enjoy solving problems. For details, see www.problemsolving.ie

Register Now!

Teachers and individuals can register online at www.adaptcentre.ie/ailo



Try out this sample puzzle for yourself!

NĪ XĪHUĀN FOOTBALL MA?

Chinese words are written in symbols (“characters”) that represent meaning rather than sound, and the Chinese writing system consists of thousands of these characters. When writing foreign names in Chinese, a selection of these characters is used based not on what they mean, but on how they sound. In the table below you will see how some names of English football teams are written in Chinese. The transliteration system is not entirely straightforward however:

- (1) Generally each character represents a syllable (V, CV or CVC), but
- (2) some English consonant combinations are not possible in Chinese, so they are split into two syllables, e.g. “spin” might be “s(u)+pin”.
- (3) Chinese does not have the same set of vowel and consonant sounds as English, so some sounds are mixed up – you probably know that R and L sound the same to a Chinese speaker. There are a few other pairs like that.
- (4) Finally, sometimes meaningful characters are used instead of phonetic ones. For example, in the Chinese for “Liverpool”, the sign for “pool” is used – it’s not pronounced “pool”.

Study the following examples. Remember that the renderings are phonetic: they are based on pronunciation, not spelling.

阿森纳	Arsenal	莱斯特城	Leicester City
阿斯顿维拉	Aston Villa	利物浦	Liverpool
博尔顿	Bolton	曼彻斯特城	Manchester City
切尔西	Chelsea	米德尔斯堡	Middlesbrough
富勒姆	Fulham	纽卡斯尔联队	Newcastle United
利兹联队	Leeds United		

To view the solution to this problem, and to try out more puzzles, visit www.adaptcentre.ie/ailo

(1) Identify the following four names from the list of seven possible answers given on the right.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| a. 曼彻斯特联队 | Birmingham |
| b. 物阿米姆 | Blackpool |
| c. 埃弗顿 | Charlton |
| d. 查尔顿 | Doncaster |
| | Everton |
| | Manchester United |
| | Preston |

(2) How do you think the place name Boston would be written in Chinese?

(3) Fill in the table below showing the correspondence between individual characters and English sounds

森	
	KA
西	
	LA
顿	



Have you got what it takes to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad?

Could you be Ireland's top young problem solver?

Enter the search for Ireland's top language decoder at www.adaptcentre.ie/ailo

Win the opportunity to represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad!

The International Linguistics Olympiad 2018 will take place in Prague from 26th to 30th July 2018. There, the top 4 Irish problem solvers will test their wits against talented language sleuths from around the world during a week packed with puzzles and social and cultural experiences. For details, see www.ioling.org

The All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) is run by:

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"I wouldn't exchange this opportunity I had to represent Ireland for anything, it was a great honour, and was not short of phenomenal."

**Claire O'Connor, Bronze Medallist,
International Linguistics Olympiad 2016**

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European Union
European Regional
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