Student Application Handbook

2016-2017

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About the Competition

 "Inspiring the Nation's Students to Pursue Innovative REsearch" (INSPIRE) is the first and only comprehensive national high school research competition in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. The competition originated as an idea to show students that research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences can be creative, rigorous, and exciting. INSPIRE is intended to serve as a forum for students to develop a passion for original inquiry and as a place where like-minded students from across the country can connect. It also gives students a unique opportunity to share their research, receive valuable feedback from some of the foremost experts in the world, and have an unforgettable experience.

The competition is organized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's INSPIRE student group and produced with support from the Institute's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and other sources. The preliminary round of the competition involves online submission of research projects. Approximately one hundred Finalists will be selected to participate in the competition's final round, where they may qualify for awards and prizes. The final round is a three-day event on MIT's campus in Cambridge, MA, bringing together experts and students. More information can be found on the INSPIRE website: http://getinspired.mit.edu.

To start, all you really need is a little curiosity and enthusiasm for a topic. This could be anything from a song you heard on the radio to a national issue raised during the Republican or Democratic primaries, a neat culture you heard about in your history class, or even a book you recently read. Come up with a new question that you want to explore or develop a new way to approach a question that's already been posed before. The sky's the limit. Find a mentor to bounce off ideas and formulate a method to approach your question. Once you've gotten started, submit your Intent to Participate.

New for INSPIRE 2016-2017:

MIT INSPIRE is pleased to introduce an optional award for the most INSPIRAtional blog entry. Keep track of your research experience with blog topics including how you chose your project topic, how you found a mentor, interesting findings, challenges, lessons learned, and the suspenseful moments you encountered during the process. Add media like pictures and videos to liven up your blog. You may use any blogging tool for this purpose. If you choose to apply, it is your sole responsibility to maintain the blog and adhere to the requirements. One blog entry may be submitted per team.

Eligibility and Rules

To be considered, students MUST:

- Carry out original research – that which conveys an innovative idea or new perspective – on a topic of interest within one of the competition categories. Note: This means that rather than writing a summary essay, you are presenting a novel analysis or perspective.
- Follow the Submission Process outlined in this handbook.

Additionally, to participate in MIT INSPIRE, students MUST meet ALL of the following eligibility requirements:

- Students must be enrolled in an accredited high school program or be a student of home or private education and working towards a G.E.D. (high school diploma).
- Students must be under the age of 19.
- Students must be U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents.
- Children of MIT faculty and staff are eligible to participate as long as their parent or guardian is not part of the judging committee.
- Students may submit projects either individually or with one partner.
- The submission must reflect the student's or students' own work.
- No student may submit more than one project.
- Students may choose to conduct research at an institution such as a university, library or corporate setting. Such projects are eligible as long as the mentor certifies that the submission reflects the student's own work.
- Projects should not involve personal risk to any individuals (including the student) or animals, or damage to others' property. Submitted work should not include any dangerous or harmful materials.
- Projects directly involving living or non-living animals, or any parts thereof, are not eligible.
- Projects involving human subjects must meet the requirements outlined in the "Eligibility of Projects Involving Human Subjects" section.
- Late submissions, incomplete submissions, submissions involving plagiarism, submissions that do not reflect the student's or students' own work, submissions involving harmful or dangerous materials or methods, submissions that do not abide by the guidelines of the INSPIRE competition, or submissions that violate any federal or state laws will not be accepted.

To compete for prizes, Finalists must submit additional forms and be able and willing to participate in the final round of the INSPIRE competition in person at MIT. Whether or not a student is selected as a Finalist, the student retains ownership of his or her own work.

All decisions by MIT INSPIRE judges are final.

The MIT INSPIRE competition does not discriminate based on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or disability.

Eligibility of Projects Involving Human Subjects

MIT INSPIRE must follow the guidelines established by the MIT Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects (COUHES) to establish eligibility rules for projects involving human subjects.

If the student's project involves human subjects, it **MUST** match one or more of the following descriptions to be considered for the MIT INSPIRE competition. Projects that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.

1. Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (i) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (ii) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.
2. Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (i) Information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.
3. Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under [the preceding paragraph 2], if: (i) the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or (ii) federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.
4. Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.
5. Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by

the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Project Categories

Your project must fall into one of the following categories below. Please note that subtopics include, but are not limited to, those listed here. Example projects from past INSPIRE competitions can be found on our website.

Category	Description	Subtopics	Example Projects
Anthropology	Comparative study of human cultures; how customary ideas, actions, and institutions shape individual and collective experience	Cultural, physical, linguistic, and medical anthropology; archaeology	• Comparing nationalism in republics and monarchies • Treatment of HIV/AIDS in West Africa
Art and Architecture	The study of works of art and architecture and critical engagement with their social, political, and material contexts	Museum and exhibition studies, art and gender, aesthetic philosophy, modes of creative production, new technologies in art and architecture, monuments, man-made landscapes, patronage and audience, production of space, design across scales	• Historical debates about polychrome sculpture in ancient Greece • Graphic techniques in Soviet propaganda posters • Expressions of nationalism in Le Corbusier's plans for Chandigarh
Comparative Media Studies	The study of how media technologies and their uses can enrich the lives of individuals locally, nationally, and globally	Mass media, cultural studies, digital media, film theory, games	• Media production and influences in North Korea • Bollywood's influence on the Indian social context • Impact of electronic, video and mobile games on social development of teenagers
Cultural Studies	Focused on the political dynamics of culture and its historical foundations, conflicts, and defining traits, aesthetics, and practices	Can focus on a particular medium or message: ideology, social class, nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, popular culture, etc.	• Comparison of the use of gestures across various cultures • Social movements: Rethinking globalization

Category	Description	Subtopics	Example Projects
Economics	The study of the behavior of individuals, groups, and organizations when they use scarce resources to achieve desired ends	Microeconomics, macroeconomics, game theory, international economics, labor, law, natural resources; behavioral, environmental, and cultural aspects of economics	• Why unions still matter: The effects of unionization on the distribution of employee earnings • Factors influencing the economic recession of 2008 • Trafficking networks and the Mexican drug war
History	The study of the past and how it relates to humans; specifically, the analysis of a sequence of past events, and the determination of their causes and effects	Military, cultural, economic, environmental, gender, and public history	• French politics and theater of the 17th and 18th centuries • Russian and Soviet history
Linguistics	The study of the rules underlying the structure of language, and what they reveal about the general principles that determine the development of language in the individual and species	Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, psycholinguistics, speech science and technology	• Locality and feature specificity in OCP effects: Evidence from Aymara, Dutch, and Javanese • German particles, modality, and the semantics of imperatives
Literature	The study of written work	Fiction, non-fiction, novel, short story, genres: romance, mystery, etc.	• Biblical allusions present in modern literature • Common themes in English Renaissance literature • Travel writing and cultural encounters
Music Research	Understanding how music functions, has changed over time, and affects and is affected by the cultures in which it is made	Music history, music in culture (ethnomusicology), music theory and analysis, perception/cognition of music, music technology	• Folk music performance in Cincinnati today • Unusual key changes in the early works of Gustav Holst • Studying the average time to learn notation software

Category	Description	Subtopics	Example Projects
Philosophy	The study of general and fundamental problems using a critical, systematic approach and rational argument	Epistemology, logic, metaphysics, ethics and political philosophy, aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind	• Can science explain consciousness? • Is morality objective? • Do you know that you are not dreaming?
Political Science	The study of national, state, and local government, politics, and policies	Political theory, comparative politics, public administration, international relations, public law, political methodology	• Trends in voter turnout since the 1980's • Is representative democracy the best form of government?
Science, Technology, and Society	The study of how science and technology affect and express human values, politics, and culture	Bioethics; science and politics; history of science and technology; science, innovation, and regulation; science, technology, and identity; technology and privacy	• Technology in American history • Human-machine interactions • Self-representation in social media • Drugs, politics, and culture
Women's and Gender Studies	The study of women, gender, and sexuality in intersection with race, ethnicity, religion, and class	Women and development, gender and technology, gender and media, psychology of sex and gender, gender equity, social policy, reproductive rights and technology, gender and sexual identity	• Characteristics of global female leaders in the 21st century • Comparing workplace and social policies in different countries • The history of industrialization and changing gender roles

Judging Criteria

The following framework will be used to evaluate submissions:

- Clarity of problem statement and implications to your field
- Originality and creativity
- Analytical depth
- Abstract and report, including good writing style
- Poster, presentation, and oral Q&A

For group submissions, the following criteria will also be used:

- Balanced share of work between partners

Note that all decisions by MIT INSPIRE judges are final.

Submission Process

Only online submissions will be accepted. There will be no exceptions.

Your full application submission **MUST** include:

- An Intent to Participate Form, due November 30, 2016 (Note: The Intent to Participate Form is nonbinding – submitting the form does not obligate you to submit an abstract or report. However, the form is required to generate a Project ID for you, which will be used to identify your future form submissions, including the abstract and report.)
- An abstract, due December 31, 2016
- A research report, maximum of 20 double-spaced pages, due December 31, 2016
- A signed and uploaded Approval and Attestation Form, due December 31, 2016

Your application MAY optionally include:

- A submission for the INSPIRE Blog Award, due January 8, 2017 (New for 2017)
- A Request for Travel Award Form, due January 8, 2017
- A Mentor Award Nomination Form, due January 8, 2017

Incomplete or late submissions will NOT be accepted. For partner projects, only enter one submission for all forms except for the Request for Travel Award.

Abstract Requirements

An abstract summarizing your research and its key components is due by December 31, 2016, 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. The abstract may be in the form of any of the following:

- A text description of no more than 250 words
- A 2-3 minute video or film (as a YouTube link)
- Any other piece of media (such as a photograph or diagram) with a caption of no more than 100 words to capture the essence of the work.

Your abstract, regardless of format, should contain no personally identifiable information either in the filename or within the contents. Please label your abstract with your Project ID In the filename. For example, if your Project ID is MIT000, your abstract should be named MIT000_Abstract. Failure to name files properly will result in disqualification of your entry. The abstract should be submitted online at http://getinspired.mit.edu.

All submissions must be in .pdf, .pptx, .ppt, .docx, or .doc format. If you have a video, please include the video link in your submission document.

Report Requirements

The research report should at a minimum contain a title page, purpose, conclusion, and bibliography in addition to more detailed sections discussing your research. Such additional sections may include hypotheses, claims, background, methodology, results, analysis, and acknowledgements based on your project. The report must be no longer than 20 double-spaced pages in total length, excluding the title page, bibliography, and acknowledgements. Visuals such as diagrams, timelines, photos, and tables supplementing the research content should be embedded directly in the relevant sections of the report. Note that MIT INSPIRE is not providing specific guidelines on report sections as report structures may depend on projects. Consult your mentor to determine which sections are most appropriate for your project. Example reports from previous INSPIRE competitions are available on our website.

In addition:

- Be sure to use the Times New Roman, Helvetica, or Arial font in 12 points for the body of the report.
- Have page margins of one inch.
- All diagrams, pictures, tables, and photos must have captions.

- Include a title page, which does not count in the 20-page limit. This should list the project title, category, and Project ID number that you will receive after you submit your Intent to Participate Form.
- Ensure that the report has no mention or reference to your name(s), school name, or any other identifying personal information.
- Any material that is not your own must be cited according to MLA, APA, or Chicago style guidelines. The bibliography does not count towards the page limit.
- Please label your report with your Project ID in the filename as follows: If your Project ID is MIT000, your report should be named MIT000_Report.

Note: Failure to follow any of the above guidelines will result in disqualification of your entry.

Submit your Report online at http://getinspired.mit.edu by December 31, 2016, 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Upon evaluation of your online submission, if you are selected as a Finalist, you will be invited to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Cambridge, MA to present your work to experts in the appropriate research category. Finalists will be announced in late February or early March.

To compete for prizes, Finalists must be willing and available to participate in the final competition round in person at MIT. If chosen as a Finalist, you will receive additional forms that may require the consent of your parent and mentor. These forms must be submitted prior to participating in the final round.

MIT INSPIRE is not responsible for providing travel arrangements for Finalists. However, eligible students may request up to $300 for travel costs by completing the optional Request for Travel Award Form. MIT INSPIRE reserves the right to determine whether a travel award will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

In-person Presentations for Finalists

If you are selected as a Finalist, your in-person presentation MUST include:

1. A poster board (no larger than 30'' deep, 48'' wide, and 72'' high) that includes the highlights of your research, which are described in detail in the research report. Your poster board must either be able to stand on its own on a table (such as a tri-fold board) or be a roll-up poster. Example displays with poster stands and tables can be found here: https://getinspired.mit.edu/example-displays-finalists
2. An oral presentation, which will consist of a two to five-minute summary of your work followed by question-and-answer sessions with judges. You should be

prepared to adjust the length of your presentation according to your judge's expectations on judging day.

3. A copy of the research report you submitted in the online application.
4. A copy of the abstract you submitted in the online application.

For partner projects, both members must be present for the in-person presentation.

During the final round, the only setup materials you will be provided are tables upon which to display your poster board. MIT INSPIRE may also be able to provide a limited number of poster display stands, but tri-fold boards are encouraged due to limited supply. If you would like to include an audio/visual component in your presentation, please indicate so on your Finalist forms (available in Spring 2017). You will be responsible for bringing any other equipment, such as extension cords.

Blog Requirements

Blogging about your research and submitting your blog for the INSPIRE Shakespeare Award is purely optional.

The INSPIRE Team hopes that you will blog about your research experience. It can be a nice way to share your reflections regarding your research journey with others. If you choose to apply for the blog award, your blog should:

1. Have a minimum of 9 entries
2. Include some form of multimedia, such as pictures and/ or videos (see note below)
3. Address what you have learned through the research process and what you have enjoyed
4. Discuss any challenges you have encountered and if applicable, how you surmounted them

Only one blog submission will be accepted per project. If you have a partner project, this means that you and your partner may submit one joint blog entry.

You are required to obtain written permission and properly acknowledge ownership of all images and other media that you intend to post in your blog, that you do not own or were not developed solely by you. Blog content that violates any laws, is offensive, incites violence or is otherwise deemed inappropriate for viewing by the general public (for purposes of this competition) will not be accepted.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Please make note of the following dates and deadlines. No exceptions will be considered.

- o   November 30, 2016: Intent to Participate Form
- o   December 31, 2016: Abstract Submission
- o   December 31, 2016: Report Submission
- o   December 31, 2016: Approval and Attestation Form
- o   January 8, 2017: Request for Travel Award Form
- o   January 8, 2017: Mentor Award Nomination Form
- o   January 8, 2017: Blog Award Submission
- o   Late February/early March 2017: Finalist Notification
- o   March 2017: Finalist Forms
- o   April 10-12, 2017: INSPIRE Final Round on MIT's campus in Cambridge, MA

All deadlines assume a time of 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. No extensions will be granted.

Submission Checklist

For All Applicants

November 30, 2016

☐   Intent to Participate Form (Required)

December 31, 2016

☐   Abstract and Report Submission (Required)

☐   Approval and Attestation Form scanned and uploaded as PDF document (Required)

January 8, 2017

☐   INSPIRE Blog Award Submission (Optional)

☐   Request for Travel Award (Optional – need-based)

☐   Mentor Award Nomination Form (Optional)

For All Finalists

Early March 2017 (Forms for Finalists will be available in Spring 2017)

☐   Finalist Registration (Required)

☐   Medical Waiver (Required)

☐   Photo Release (Required)

Note: All deadlines are at 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on the given dates. No extensions will be granted.

Intent to Participate Form (REQUIRED)

This is an online submission form and must be completed on the INSPIRE website (http://getinspired.mit.edu). For partner projects, only submit this form once. To participate in the competition, you must submit this form no later than 11:59:59 PM EST on November 30, 2016. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Once we receive your submission, an email confirmation and Project ID will be sent to the email addresses on record.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Student Information

Student name*

Student email*

Student phone number*

Current grade level*

Student school (or Homeschool)*

Is your school considered a Title 1 School by the U.S. Department of Education?* (Note: Title 1 description: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

City*

State*

Are you submitting a team project?*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Second Student Information (required for team projects)

2nd Student name

2nd Student email

2nd Student phone number

2nd Student current grade level

2nd Student school

City   State

Eligibility Information

Are you (and your team member, if applicable) under the age of 19 years on December 31, 2016?*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Are you (and your team member, if applicable) a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident?*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Project Information

Category* (Note: You will NOT be allowed to change your category later.)

Tentative Project Title* (Note: You will be able to change your title when you submit your abstract and report.)

Mentor Information: If a student or team does not have a formal mentor, they may provide the contact information of a teacher or high school administrator. For homeschooled students, please provide the contact information for your homeschool teacher. Please be sure to check with potential mentors before submitting their information with this form.

Mentor name and title (Dr., Ms., Mr. etc.)*

Mentor email*

Mentor phone number*

Mentor designation (e.g. History teacher, Professor of Economics)*

Affiliation (name of school, university, corporation)*

City*   State*

Abstract and Report Submission (REQUIRED)

This is an online submission form and must be completed on the website (http://getinspired.mit.edu). For partner projects, only submit this form once. To participate in the competition, you must submit your abstract and report no later than 11:59:59 PM EST on December 31, 2016. You may only submit this form once, and that will be considered your final submission. Late submissions will not be accepted.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Student Details

Student name*

Student email*

Student phone number*

Current grade level*

Student school (or Homeschool)*

City*   State*

Are you submitting a team project?*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Second Student Details (required for team projects)

2nd Student name

2nd Student email

2nd Student phone number

2nd Student current grade level

2nd Student school

City   State

Mentor Details

Mentor name and title (Dr., Ms., Mr. etc.)*

Mentor email*

Mentor phone number*

Mentor designation (e.g. History teacher, Professor of Economics)*

Affiliation (name of school, university, corporation)*

City*   State*

Project Details

Project ID*

Project category* (select one of 13 categories)

Project title*

Uploads

Abstract format* (select from text, video, audio, diagram, and other media). The only accepted file types are pdf, doc, docx, gif, jpg, and png. If your abstract is a video, please upload your video on YouTube and provide the link in your abstract attachment.

Abstract Attachment upload* (Maximum file size: 3 MB) Note that the name of your file must be in the following format: ProjectID_Abstract (e.g. MIT000_Abstract)

Report upload* (Maximum file size: 8 MB) Note that the name of your file must be in the following format: ProjectID_Report (e.g. MIT000_Report)

Approval and Attestation Form upload* Note that the name of your file must be in the following format: ProjectID_AAForm (e.g. MIT000_AAForm)

Other Details

Did you complete your project as part of a school activity (e.g. class project, club, etc.)?*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Do you certify that you have not included any personally identifying information (including your name, school, address, teacher's name, and city) in the contents of your abstract and report submissions?* (Note: Failure to do so will result in disqualification.)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Do you certify that you have named your files using the format ProjectID_Abstract, ProjectID_Report, and ProjectID_AAForm?* (Note: Failure to do so will result in disqualification.)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Approval and Attestation Form 2017 (REQUIRED)

This form must be downloaded, printed, completed, signed, and uploaded online on the INSPIRE website (http://getinspired.mit.edu) by the December 31, 2016 deadline. Please name the uploaded file with your Project ID. For example, if your Project ID is MIT000, your file should be named MIT000_AAForm. If you have not received a Project ID from INSPIRE, please contact us immediately at inspire-communications@mit.edu.

Directions: Please fill in all the fields. Please PRINT and SIGN this form (Note: 3-4 signatures are needed). Please scan and upload the signed form along with the report, which should be in PDF format. E-signatures will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions or reports without this form will be rejected. Only files of type pdf, jpg or tif will be accepted. For partner projects, only submit this form once.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Student Information

Student name*

Student email*

Student phone number*

Current grade level*

Student school*

School mailing address*

City*   State*

Name of Principal*

Email of Principal*

Do you plan to apply for a Travel Award?* (Note: See Eligibility section of "Request for Travel Award" to find out if you qualify.)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Are you a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?*   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Second Student Information (required for team projects)

Second Student name

Second Student email

Second Student phone number

Second Student current grade level

Second Student school

School mailing address

City   State

Name of Principal

Email of Principal

Do you plan to apply for a Travel Award? (Note: See Eligibility section of "Request for Travel Award" to find out if you qualify.)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Are you a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Project Details

Project ID*

Category* (select from 13 categories)

Project title*

Does your project involve human subjects?* ☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, does your project meet the requirements described in the "Eligibility of Projects Involving Human Subjects" section? (Note: Submissions involving human subjects that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Project Mentor

If a student or team does not have a formal mentor, a teacher or high school administrator may complete this form. For homeschooled students, please complete the information about your homeschool teacher.

Mentor name*

Mentor designation (title – e.g. English teacher, Philosophy Professor)*

Mentor affiliation (e.g. school, institution)*

Mentor address*

Mentor email*

Mentor phone number*

Describe and acknowledge any assistance received (to be completed by the student and reviewed by the mentor)

(300 word limit)

Attestation

<u>Student</u>

I/We certify that all information I/we have provided is accurate and true, and my/our submission reflects my/our work, and not the work of others. I/We have each read the Student Application Handbook of the MIT INSPIRE competition and agree to abide by the competition guidelines at all times. I/We certify that my/our project complies with the terms of these rules and regulations and understand that failure to meet any of these terms will result in disqualification of my/our project. I/We also understand that the decision of the judges is final and cannot be contested. If selected as a Finalist/Finalists, I am/we are willing and able to participate in the 3-day final round at MIT, Cambridge, MA.

Student Signature*   Date*

2nd Student Signature (if team project)   Date

<u>Parent/ Guardian</u>:

I/We hereby permit the above-signed student to participate in the MIT INSPIRE competition. I/We waive all claims against MIT, MIT INSPIRE, its sponsors, and agents, for injury or death of persons or loss or damage of property in any way occurring in connection with MIT INSPIRE, and I/we agree to indemnify and hold them harmless against all such liabilities.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have verified the student information and have read and will support all the rules and regulations included in the Student Application Handbook and MIT INSPIRE website, and understand that the decision of the judges is final.

I/We agree that my/our child's/children's name(s), project title, project description, high school name and its location, and submission materials, as a result of participation in the competition, may be used by MIT or MIT INSPIRE in various media in connection with the promotion of MIT or MIT INSPIRE.

Parent/ Guardian Name*

Parent/ Guardian Signature*   Date*

2nd Parent/ Guardian Name (if team project)

2nd Parent/ Guardian Signature (if team project)   Date

Mentor:

I certify that I approved/supervised this project and have verified that it complies with all the rules and regulations outlined in the Student Application Handbook of MIT INSPIRE. I also attest that to the best of my knowledge and information, the work submitted is reflective of the student's/students' original and independent contribution and has not been directly or indirectly copied or plagiarized from other sources. I have reviewed the Student Information section of this form and certify that the information is accurate.

Mentor Name*

Mentor Affiliation* (school, institution)

Mentor Signature*   Date*

Request for Travel Award (OPTIONAL)

Eligibility

The purpose of the MIT INSPIRE Travel Award is to provide partial reimbursement of travel expenses for those Finalists who otherwise may not have the means to attend the final round of the MIT INSPIRE competition on MIT's campus, from April 10-12, 2017.

Please note that MIT INSPIRE can offer only a limited number of awards and these awards are capped at a maximum of Three Hundred Dollars ($300) per participant. The selection of Travel Award winners is determined based on needs (and proof of documentation below).

To be eligible for the MIT INSPIRE Travel Award, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Your family receives public assistance
- You participate in or meet the eligibility criteria for the National School Lunch Program
- You are enrolled in a government program that supports students from families with low incomes
- Your family's yearly income falls under the USDA Food and Nutritional Service's "Income Eligibility Guidelines"
- You are homeless, live in a foster home, or live in government-aided public housing

All decisions by MIT INSPIRE regarding travel awards are final.

Details

Please submit the following form with proof of eligibility by January 8, 2017. This form must be completed online.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Student Name (First and Last Name)*

Student Phone Number *

Student Email Address *

Student School *

Student City *   State   Zipcode*

Project ID *

Project Mentor Name *

Which city will you be traveling from? *

Which state will you be traveling from? *

Anticipated Arrival Date *

Anticipated Departure Date *

Form of Travel (air, car, bus, other) *

Proof of Eligibility Document * (Upload) File must be named Project ID_Travel.

(Note: A signed statement from a counselor from your school stating that "I certify that to the best of my knowledge, this student satisfies the eligibility criteria for the MIT INSPIRE Travel Award." can serve as proof of eligibility.)

Allowed file types jpg, png, tif, pdf, doc, docx.

Additional Information (Optional)

INSPIRE Athena Mentor Award Nomination (OPTIONAL)

This form must be completed online.

A project mentor is one who is providing ongoing guidance, mentorship and encouragement to the student(s) while they carry out an in-depth study on a specific topic. MIT INSPIRE believes that the mentor plays a significant role in the development of the students' skill sets and should be recognized for his or her contribution and efforts. The mentor can be a teacher, high school administrator, or advisor at a professional, corporate or academic institution. Family members cannot serve as mentors.

In order for your mentor to be considered for the INSPIRE Athena Mentor award, you must complete and submit this form no later than 11:59:59 PM EST on January 8, 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Only one nomination may be submitted per mentor. You may include feedback from multiple students in this nomination.

All decisions by MIT INSPIRE regarding mentor awards are final.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Primary Student Nominator Details

      Student name*

      Student email*

      Student phone number*

      Student school*

      City*   State*

      Student project ID*

Details of Mentor (being nominated)

      Mentor name*

      Mentor email*

      Mentor phone number*

      Mentor title and designation*

Mentor affiliation*

City*   State*

Explain in your own words why you would like to nominate this mentor.*

(Maximum of 300 words)

What are the unique skills and attributes this mentor brings that align with the spirit of MIT INSPIRE?*

(Maximum of 250 words)

Please list your mentor's major accomplishments.*

(Maximum of 250 words)

Number of student mentees for INSPIRE 2017*

Additional information (e.g. If your mentor works at a Title 1 school, or how your mentor incorporated INSPIRE into classroom curricula). Please do not paste mentor's CV here.

(Maximum of 150 words)

INSPIRE Shakespeare Blog Award Submission (OPTIONAL)

This form must be completed online. Only one blog may be submitted per project.

In order for your blog to be considered for the INSPIRE Shakespeare Blog Award, you must complete and submit this form no later than 11:59:59 PM EST on January 8, 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please note that you are required to obtain written permission and properly acknowledge ownership of all images and other media that you intend to post in your blog, that you do not own or were not developed solely by you. Blog content that violates any laws, is offensive, incites violence or is otherwise deemed inappropriate for viewing by the general public (for purposes of this competition) will not be accepted.

* Indicates a Required Field.

Student Details

Student name*

Student email*

Student phone number*

Current grade level*

Student school (or Homeschool)*

City*   State*

Second Student Details (if team project)

2nd Student name

2nd Student email

2nd Student phone number

2nd Student current grade level

2nd Student school

City   State

Project Details

Project ID*

Project category* (select one of 13 categories)

Project title*

Blog Details

Blog title*

Blog link*

What have you learned by blogging about your research?*
(Maximum of 200 words)

Why do you think you deserve to win the INSPIRE Blog Award?*
(Maximum of 200 words)

How has your research experience shaped your career or academic aspirations?*
(Maximum of 250 words)

I certify that my blog meets all the guidelines and rules regarding content, images and media as specified by MIT INSPIRE. I grant permission for MIT INSPIRE to profile my blog or parts of my blog for promotional purposes.*

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Frequently Asked Questions

a. Why should I participate in MIT INSPIRE?
b. Are team projects eligible? What is the process for submitting an application?
c. Who can be designated as a mentor?
d. I am homeschooled. Who can serve as my mentor?
e. I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Am I still eligible to apply?
f. Am I eligible for the travel award?
g. What will MIT INSPIRE do with the information I submit?
h. Am I required to maintain a blog of my research?
i. How can I contact MIT INSPIRE?

a. Why should I participate in MIT INSPIRE?

1. The Knowledge

What makes you tick? Find out by delving deep into something that interests you. Get a taste of what research in a field that you love is all about – learn about the process, derive exciting results, and demonstrate your expertise. Gain key skills to make you well rounded. When you're in college, you'll have an easier time doing research under a professor since you can show that you already have significant experience.

2. The Glory

You definitely earn bragging rights. But more than that, by participating in a *national* event, you demonstrate to the world (and college admissions committees!) that you took the initiative to explore your passions, made the time to dig deeper, and then took it to the next level. You prove that your inquiry is noteworthy. And you stand out from your peers who may have participated in only STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) research and competitions. Not to mention, you can win awards and monetary prizes!

3. The Experience

Who wouldn't want the awesome opportunity to meet, connect with, and impress some of the top experts in your favorite disciplines? You'll definitely be inspired by getting their feedback on your project, finding out about their career paths, and participating in cool events. Come explore the enriching experience MIT has to offer you at the event. As someone who is interested in arts, humanities and social sciences subjects, talk to current students from around the country and participate in an unforgettable experience as a high school student. Check out testimonials from past participants on our website (https://getinspired.mit.edu/inspire-testimonials).

b. Are team projects eligible? What is the process for submitting an application?

Yes, team projects are eligible. Teams must be no more than two (2) students. Only one copy of each form should be submitted per project. The information of both team members must be included in these forms, and one parent/guardian for each team member must consent to participation and sign the Approval and Attestation form. The only form that requires separate submission for each student is the Travel Award Request Form.

c. **Who can be designated as a mentor?**

Your project is required to have a mentor. Your mentor can be any educator (ideally in a social science, humanities, or art-related field), counselor, high school administrator, professor (if you are conducting research at an institution), or advisor who is familiar with your project and can attest to the fact that the work submitted is your own. Family of participating students cannot serve as mentors.

d. **I am homeschooled. Who can serve as my mentor?**
Any professor, administrator, teacher, or advisor who is familiar with your project and can attest to the fact that the work submitted is your own. Family members of participating students cannot serve as mentors.

e. **I am not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Am I still eligible to apply?**
Unfortunately, for the 2016-2017 competition, we will only be accepting submissions from U.S. citizens and permanent residents. In future years, we may explore the possibility of opening it up to students who do not satisfy these criteria.

f. **Am I eligible for the travel award?**
Please see the Travel Award Request Form.

g. **What will MIT INSPIRE do with the information I submit?**
Information and data that you submit to MIT INSPIRE will be used primarily for the purposes of operating the competition. Such purposes may include event planning; competition judging; student, mentor or school outreach; or other MIT INSPIRE-related purposes. Your name, high school, city, state, project details, and submission materials may also be used by MIT or MIT INSPIRE in various media in connection with the promotion of MIT or MIT INSPIRE.

h. **Am I required to maintain a blog of my research?**
No, blogging about your research experience is purely optional. However, we encourage you to blog as you may find it valuable. The blog can be a tool to share your research journey and reflections with your peers and colleagues, and is a fun way to engage with others. When you're ready to apply to colleges, the

content of your blogs can serve as great material for your admissions essays and interviews. You also enhance your writing skills as you blog.

i. **How can I contact MIT INSPIRE and where can I find the latest information regarding the competition?**
    You can contact us via web form at https://getinspired.mit.edu/contact-us, or via email directly at inspire-communications@mit.edu.
    At all times, the latest information regarding the competition, including any updates and announcements, can be found on our website: http://getinspired.mit.edu. You may also follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/theMITINSPIRE) and Twitter (@MITINSPIRE).