

MEDIA RELEASE – 29 August 2025

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Australia’s Future Scientists Excel in 2025 International Science Olympiads

Australia’s smartest science students have triumphed on the world stage, returning from the 2025 International Science Olympiads with a prestigious haul of medals and unforgettable experiences that will shape their futures.

The 17 science students selected to represent Australia, after tough qualifying exams and training, have returned home with an impressive tally of 4 gold, 7 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

In June, we proudly [announced the students chosen to represent Australia](#) at the 2025 International Science Olympiads. Donning the iconic green and gold, these talented young scientists embarked on journeys overseas, competing in their chosen field and meeting other young scientists and experts from around the world. They also experienced the culture, traditions, history, nature, and food of the regions they visited.

“This year’s International Physics Olympiad in France delivered a truly impressive outcome, with the Australian team earning two gold medals – a feat Australia hasn’t achieved since 2004,” said Australian Science Innovations (ASI) Executive Director Vanessa Kates.

Yichen Eason Yang has been a long-time participant in ASI programs, being selected for the 2022 International Junior Science Olympiad (JSO), as well as the Asian Physics Olympiads and the International Physics Olympiad teams in 2024 and 2025. His experience and dedication culminated in a gold medal this year.

Houlai Zhou showcased his talent at the Asian Physics Olympiad in 2024 and 2025, before being selected for the team representing Australia at the 2024 International Physics Olympiad but unfortunately the team could not travel to Iran to compete. Turning that earlier disappointment into success by earning a gold medal this year demonstrates his determination, and the strength of the program.

Owen Zhai also exemplifies the value of engaging in ASI pathways programs, earning gold at the 2024 International Junior Science Olympiad in Romania, after completing the JSO Academy Program. This extension program has now evolved into the [Talent Development Program](#), a national invitation-only online program offered to high-performing junior science students from underrepresented areas.

Along with their teammates, Matthew and Isaac, the [Australian Physics team](#) rose to the challenge of a demanding Olympiad and emerged as winners.

“What makes this even more remarkable is the International Physics Olympiad featured 440 competitors,

and boasted participants from over 90 countries, which is one of the largest Science Olympiad events that Australia has participated in. We are proud of the superb effort by the entire team and their support crew,” Ms Kates said.

Besides France, other Science Olympiads were held in the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, and China, where our teams built global relations with like-minded peers. The Australian [Earth Science team](#) also took a journey, there and back again, to New Zealand to prepare for the challenging competition in China. The immersive experience not only deepened their scientific knowledge and field skills but also fostered teamwork, cultural exchange, and contributed to their success in the Olympiad.

“As is sometimes the case, the medal colours don’t tell the whole story,” Trent Wallis, Chemistry Program Director, explained. “All of our medals for the [Chemistry team](#) at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Dubai were at the high end of their categories. Superb performances, and excellent reward for the immense effort all of the students have put in; they really prepared as well as they possibly could have.”

The [Biology team](#) celebrated a gold medal for Matthew Wu at the International Biology Olympiad in the Philippines, along with a well-earned medal for each team member. The team was strengthened by the experience of seasoned Science Olympian, [Oliver Downing](#). Olly progressed through the JSO Training Squad, and later the JSO Academy, before being selected for the International Junior Science Olympiad teams in 2022 and 2023.

“All our teams have achieved exceptional results. It’s a reflection of their grit and determination, and a testament to the quality programs delivered by teams who consistently go above and beyond for these students,” noted Associate Professor Stella Clark, Chair of the Board. “We are immensely proud of their achievements and excited to share their outstanding results and inspiring moments.”

We are pleased to announce that Australian teams have returned victorious from the 2025 International Science Olympiads with 4 gold, 7 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

Congratulations to all!

Australia’s International Science Olympiads programs are run by not-for-profit Australian Science Innovations. Thank you to our valued partners, supporters, and sponsors.

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Interviews with ASI Executive Director Vanessa Kates available.

2025 International Science Olympiad – Australian medallists

Gold medals			
Houlai Zhou	Sydney Grammar School	NSW	International Physics Olympiad
Yichen Eason Yang	Trinity Grammar School, Kew	VIC	International Physics Olympiad
Matthew Wu	Melbourne High School	VIC	International Biology Olympiad
Alex Zhuang	The King's School	NSW	International Earth Sciences Olympiad
Silver medals			
Vinay Raghavan	Haileybury College	VIC	International Chemistry Olympiad
Matthew Yan	Balwyn High School	VIC	International Physics Olympiad
Owen Zhai	Brisbane State High School	QLD	International Physics Olympiad
Oliver Downing	Melbourne High School	VIC	International Biology Olympiad
Jeffrey Tang	North Sydney Boys High School	NSW	International Earth Science Olympiad
Tiffany Gao	Presbyterian Ladies' College Sydney	NSW	International Earth Science Olympiad
Leo Buckle	Camberwell Grammar School	VIC	International Earth Science Olympiad
Bronze medals			
Katherine Lu	Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics & Technology	QLD	International Chemistry Olympiad
Daniel Behrendt	Sydney Grammar School	NSW	International Chemistry Olympiad
Daniel Lin	James Ruse Agricultural High School	NSW	International Chemistry Olympiad
Isaac Chan	Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology	QLD	International Physics Olympiad
Gina Chen	James Ruse Agricultural High School	NSW	International Biology Olympiad
Aidan Chan	Balwyn High School	VIC	International Biology Olympiad

2025 International Science Olympiad results for Australian teams, by discipline

2025 International Chemistry Olympiad, held from 5 to 14 July 2025 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Silver for Vinay Raghavan
- Bronze for Katherine Lu
- Bronze for Daniel Behrendt
- Bronze for Daniel Lin

[Team Profiles and Headshots](#)

2025 International Physics Olympiad, held from 17 to 25 July 2025 in Paris, France.

- Gold for Houlai Zhou
- Gold for Yichen Eason Yang
- Silver for Matthew Yan
- Silver for Owen Zhai
- Bronze for Isaac Chan

[Team Profiles and Headshots](#)

2025 International Biology Olympiad, held from 20 to 27 July 2025 in Quezon City, Philippines.

- Gold for Matthew Wu
- Silver for Oliver Downing
- Bronze for Gina Chen
- Bronze for Aidan Chan

[Team Profiles and Headshots](#)

2025 International Earth Science Olympiad, held from 7 to 16 August 2025 in Jining, China.

- Gold for Alex Zhuang
- Silver for Jeffrey Tang
- Silver for Tiffany Gao
- Silver for Leo Buckle

[Team Profiles and Headshots](#)