KIMEP AI Challenge Competition Rules

Objectives

The KAI Conference 2026 KIMEP AI Challenge aims to showcase high school students' work in Artificial Intelligence and promote awareness of AI applications across everyday life, creativity, and society. Each submission must include a clear AI component and fall within one of the following thematic areas:

- AI **in Everyday Life**
  Smart assistants, AI-powered apps, wearables, smart devices, and other everyday applications.
- AI **for Creativity**
  AI applications in art, music, games, film, storytelling, and other forms of creative expression.
- AI **for Social Good**
  AI solutions addressing challenges in health, education, the environment, accessibility, or local communities.
- AI **Ethics, Equity and Law**
  AI bias and fairness, copyright and AI-generated content, academic integrity, responsible AI use, and the environmental impact of AI.
- AI **in Robotics and Automation**
  Smart vehicles, home and industrial robotics, automation, intelligent machines, and biomimicry.
- AI **in Cybersecurity and Digital Safety**
  Data privacy, cybersecurity, digital footprints, online safety, misinformation, and deepfakes.
- The **Future of AI**
  Emerging AI applications and their potential impact on business, innovation, education, careers, and society.

Rules

- Participants must be high school students.
- Each participant may submit only one entry, with a maximum of three participants per team. **Maximum three teams from each school.**
- Submissions must be presented in the form of an A0 poster (portrait) using the provided template: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ae0LrpfivdSgqINhLVMZjnze-DtVh-9J/view?usp=sharing
- The poster must include all relevant sections: name(s), institution, title, abstract, introduction, objectives, methodology, results, conclusion, and references.
- Posters and project presentations must be prepared in English.
- The project topic must have a clear relationship to AI and must be the participant's own original work.
- A small table will be provided in front of each poster to allow participants to demonstrate their artefact (e.g., running AI software or hardware implementations on a laptop).
- Posters containing political, religious, offensive, or unverified content will not be accepted.
- Participants must be available to present their project and answer questions during the official poster session of the KAI Conference 2026.
- Poster submission alone does not constitute participation; teams must complete both the poster display and the oral project presentation to be eligible for judging and awards.
- **Posters must be submitted through the online portal by November 22, 2026.**

- Submissions received by November 22, 2026, will be included in the official poster printing arranged by the Organizing Committee.
- Late submissions may be accepted after November 25, 2026; however, posters submitted after this date will NOT be printed by the Conference.
- Teams submitting after November 25, 2026, must bring their own printed A0 poster to the conference venue.

Presentation, Judging, and Final Round

- All teams are required to formally present their projects in person during the KIMEP AI Challenge as part of the KIMEP AI Conference 2026.
- **Round 1 – Day**: Each team will deliver an elevator pitch accompanied by their poster and project demonstration in front of the official judging panel and the conference audience. The presentation should clearly explain:
    - the problem addressed;
    - the AI approach and methodology;
    - key results or demonstration of the project; and
    - the relevance of the project to the selected thematic area.
- Posters serve as visual support for the presentation. The oral elevator pitch, project demonstration, and Q&A session are mandatory components of Round 1.
- After each Round 1 presentation, teams will participate in a Q&A session with judges and audience members.
- Based on the evaluation results at the end of Day 1, the Top 5 teams from each thematic area will be selected to the Final Round on Day 2.

- **Final Round – Day 2**: Shortlisted teams will present their projects again in a more detailed oral presentation/pitch to a panel of academic and industry judges and the conference audience. The Final Round presentation should provide a deeper explanation of the project, including its methodology, technical implementation, results, and overall impact.

The Final Round will include:

- poster presentation/support;
- detailed oral presentation;
- project demonstration; and
- Q&A session with the judges and audience.

Final rankings and prize winners will be determined based on the teams' overall performance in both rounds, including:

- poster quality;
- technical merit;
- clarity and effectiveness of the oral presentation;
- quality and relevance of the project demonstration; and
- ability to respond effectively to questions during both rounds.

Scoring Criteria

- **Originality (25):** Novelty and innovation of the idea.

- **Technical Difficulty (25):** Complexity of the AI methods, tools, and implementation.
- **Questions and Answers (20):** Quality of responses during judge interaction.
- **Professionalism (15):** Clarity, confidence, and conduct during presentation.
- **Poster Presentation (5):** Visual quality, structure, and clarity of the poster.

Prizes

The AI Challenge is not just a competition; it is an opportunity to enter KIMEP University. Teams that achieve the highest results will receive scholarships, which will be distributed among team members and credited directly toward their tuition fees upon enrollment at KIMEP University.

- **Presidential Scholarship (100%): ***Awarded to the winning team (up to three members) in the AI Challenge, as selected by a panel of SCSM faculty and industry judges. Each team member will receive a one-year, 100% tuition scholarship to KIMEP University.
- **Provost Scholarship (50%): ***Awarded to the second-place team (3 members) in the AI Challenge. Each team member will receive a one-year, 50% tuition scholarship to KIMEP University.
- **Vice President Scholarship (25%): ***Awarded to the third-place team (3 members) in the AI Challenge. Each team member will receive a one-year, 25% tuition scholarship to KIMEP University.
- **Certificate of Excellence** for winners.
- **Certificate of Participation** for all participants.
  **Students in Grades 9–10 and students who will graduate from high school after 2027 are also eligible to participate in the KIMEP AI Challenge. If a team placing among the top three includes participants who will not graduate from high school in 2027, those participants will not be eligible to receive the tuition scholarships. Instead, they will receive consolation prizes in the form of SCSAI-branded merchandise. Students in Grades 9–10 will also have opportunities to participate in future SCSAI events and attend free workshops on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (AI & Robotics)*

Win the AI Challenge, enroll at KIMEP, and your scholarship will be applied directly toward your tuition—a head start on your future before your first semester even begins.

Terms and Conditions

- Participants consent to the recording, duplication, and distribution of their submissions during the conference.
- Judges are appointed by the KAI Conference Committee, and their decisions are final.
- KIMEP University reserves the right to cancel, modify rules, or terminate the competition if necessary.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring timely submission and sufficient poster resolution for high-quality printing.

AI Disclosure

Participants may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Copilot) as part of the project development process. However, teams must clearly disclose how AI tools were used. The submitted work must demonstrate the team's own understanding, design decisions, and implementation.