

Frequently asked questions

 For teachers and school administrators

Free to enter · No special equipment needed · No prior knowledge required · STEM-aligned



Participation basics



Is there a cost to participate?

No. Registration and participation in steelChallenge-21 are completely free for all participants. There are no fees at any stage.



What equipment or software do students need?

A computer (desktop or laptop) with an internet connection. No software installation required — the EAF simulator and all learning resources are accessed through the browser.



What is the age or grade requirement?

The High School category is open to secondary school students worldwide. Specific eligibility details are available at steeluniversity.org.



Can a whole class participate?

Yes. Students register and compete individually and there is no limit to the number of students from one school. You can encourage the whole class or just interested individuals!



Do teachers need to deliver lessons before students participate?

No. Students can prepare independently using the simulator and online learning resources. Teachers may choose to introduce the challenge in class, or use it as an optional STEM or careers activity, but they are not required to teach steelmaking content.

Preparation and time commitment



How much time does participation require?

Preparation is self-paced and can be done in students' own time using online resources. The Regional Championship on 17 November 2026 is a time-limited session. We recommend students spend at least a few hours preparing with the simulator and tutorial resources.



Do students need prior knowledge of steel or engineering?

No. The High School category and its case study are designed for secondary-level learners with no industry background. Curiosity, logical thinking, and a willingness to experiment are what matter most.



Is there teacher support or a curriculum guide?

steeluniversity provides a full suite of digital learning resources and a support desk. The steelTalks Masterclass will explain the EAF simulator in depth and will be recorded for later viewing.

