

Schedule of Events (UChicago Team Qualifier)

Saturday, April 4, 2020

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|--------------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Arrive at Saieh Hall Room 146 (SHFE 146) for check-in. |
| 9:15 AM | Prompt will be released to all teams. Teams do not have to stay in SHFE 146 if they do not want to. |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch will be served in SHFE 146 |
| 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Dinner will be served and 10-minutes presentations will begin over dinner. Meet in SHFE 146. |
| 8:00 PM | Lecturer Judges will announce teams moving to the final round. |

Schedule of Events (Main Competition)

Saturday, April 18, 2020

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| 9:00 AM | Arrive at Saieh Hall Room 146 (SHFE 146) for check-in. |
| 9:15 AM | Prompt will be released to all teams. Teams do not have to stay in SHFE 146 if they do not want to. |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch will be served in SHFE 146 |
| 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Dinner will be served and 5-minutes presentations will begin over dinner. Meet in SHFE 146, some teams will be directed to SHFE 021. Feedback will be given by lecturers who select the finalists. |
| 7:30 PM – 11:00 PM | Finish writing papers with given feedback. |

Sunday, April 19, 2020

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|----------------------------|--|
| 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Teams should arrive at SHFE 146 for breakfast. Representatives from our sponsors will be available to talk with. |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Finalist teams will present in front of judges. |
| 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM | Winning teams will be determined and prizes will be handed out. |

Instructions for Teams (UChicago Team Qualifier)

The prompt for the game will be distributed at 9:00am on Saturday over breakfast. Teams will be responsible for interpreting the prompt appropriately and using personal computers with software of their choice (we recommend R or STATA) to analyze the dataset(s) relevant to their question of interest.

Deliverable (Saturday 5:30 pm)

Each team will give a 10 minute presentation of their research idea to a pair of UChicago Economics lecturers who will judge which teams are eligible to move on to the final round with teams from outside universities. The total time for presentation may not exceed 15 minutes (at least 5 minutes of which must be allocated to Q&A). The team's presentation should include slides and should adhere to the following guidelines:

- The slides and research should be relevant to the prompt
- A strong presentation will do the following:
 - Slide 1: Introduce the team
 - Slide 2: Introduce the question explored based on the prompt
 - Slide 3 - 4: Present main model, results, and why they matter
 - Slides 5-7: Present tables and figures that robustly prove that the results presented in slide 3 are true and grounded in the data.
- A strong presentation will not:
 - Summarize the dataset (everyone is using the same thing and thus this would be redundant. The competition organizers will present on the dataset at the beginning of the judging so that everyone is on equal footing)
 - Summarize related literature (frankly this presentation is about your contribution)
- Teams will be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?

Instructions for Teams (Main Competition)

The prompt for the game will be distributed at 9:00am on Saturday over breakfast. Teams will be responsible for interpreting the prompt appropriately and using personal computers with software of their choice (we recommend R or STATA) to analyze the dataset(s) relevant to their question of interest.

Deliverable 1 (Saturday 5:30 pm)

Each team will give a 5 minute presentation of their research idea to a pair of UChicago Economics lecturers who will then give feedback on the research idea. The total time for presentation and feedback may not exceed 10 minutes. The team's presentation may include slides or drawings on the chalkboard.

Deliverable 2 (Saturday 11:00 pm)

Each team will produce a research paper. They will receive instructions at 10:00 pm by email for the procedure for turning it in. Papers should be submitted no later than 11:00 pm. This deadline is firm, and papers submitted after this time will not be judged, so prudent teams should consider 10:55 pm as their deadline. Furthermore, **submissions not adhering to the following rules will also not be sent to judges.**

- The paper must be relevant to the prompt
- All tables and figures must be in an appendix section
- The paper should have a cover sheet with the random number assigned to the team by email
- The text of the paper may be no longer than 5 pages and should include the following:
 - A brief introduction
 - A brief theoretical model (if applicable, this is not the focus of the competition)
 - An empirical methods section
 - A discussion of results
 - A conclusion
- The total length of the paper must not exceed 10 pages, excluding cover sheet and references section, but including figures
 - So a paper may have 4 pages of text and a 6 page appendix of tables and figures for example
- A good paper will have the bulk of its text allocated to the discussion of results section
- Teams will be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?
 - Robust and thoughtful econometric technique

- Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
- Clear and concise writing
- **The paper must not include any information which would identify the team**
 - The judging process is meant to be anonymous
 - Each team will have their paper judged by two lecturers, one of whom gave feedback on their presentation and the other who was not in the room. The lecturer who gave feedback may remember the team, but will not have any way of knowing whether they did or did not see the team present earlier in the day.
 - Each lecturer will be randomly assigned half of the papers, and will rank the papers that they read relative to one another
 - Lecturers make their recommendations independently

Deliverable 3 (Sunday 10:00 am)

Teams will be notified by an email at 8:00 am whether or not they are finalists (the finalist selection process is detailed below in the instructions for lecturers). Finalist teams will be expected to give a 20 minute presentation of their findings to our panel of judges at 10:00am. This will be followed by questions from the judges which should not last longer than 30 minutes after the team began its presentation. That is to say a 15 minute presentation would allow for 15 minutes of questions. This presentation may include slides or drawings on the chalkboard. Judges will receive a printed copy of the paper submitted the night before to consider in their evaluation of each paper.

Instructions for Student Game Coordinators

These easily generalize between the games and are thus not repeated.

Task 1: Food Setup

- There are four meals, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and then Sunday Breakfast
- Ensure that catering arrives and is set up

Task 2: Prompt Distribution

- Arrive at 8:30am to ensure building is unlocked and post a member of oeconomica in the lobby to direct teams to SHFE 146 for prompt distribution
- Take attendance of arriving teams and contact missing teams
- Collect a primary contact email for each team and create a spreadsheet for tracking attendance and progress in the competition
- Send out the prompt to the teams by email over breakfast

Task 3: Lecturer support

- **Prepare printed copies of lecturer instructions and prompts for each lecturer**
 - We can bill printing to our CLI account, see website for instructions on this one
- Welcome the lecturers at 5:15 pm - 5:30 pm, and distribute the below directions
- Ensure that there is a member of Oeconomica in both SHFE 146 and SHFE 021
 - This member of Oeconomica will be responsible for keeping time:
 - No more than 5 min for the team presentation
 - No more than 10 min for each team total
 - A team who presents for 3 minutes therefore has 7 minutes remaining to receive feedback from the judges
 - This member will be responsible for resolving any rule clarifications that are required. If rules are ambiguous, Eric will be the final arbiter as President of Oeconomica
- Take note of which teams present to create an updated list of teams still in the competition.
- **Distribute an email to the Oeconomica listhost reminding members of the final presentations on Sunday and the Networking breakfast**

Task 4: Paper anonymization and distribution

- Create a crosswalk assigning teams a random number (between 1 and N where N is the total number of teams still in the competition) to anonymously identify them **by 10:00 pm** and give them instructions for emailing their final papers to you
 - Random number should be between 1 and N where N is the number of teams who made it to the presentation stage of the competition
 - In this email, remind teams to omit identifying information from their paper
- Allocate papers to judges as follows
 - All papers with an odd random number go to Lima

- All papers with an even random number go to Kuevibulvanich
- All papers with a number less than or equal to $\text{floor}(N/2)$ go to Pieters
- All papers with a number greater than $\text{floor}(N/2)$ go to Roark
- This allocation mechanism ensures each paper is read by two judges, each judge reads no more than half the papers, and each team is guaranteed one judge who saw their topic pitch and one judge who did not.
- Record in the spreadsheet which teams have turned in papers at 11:00pm. Follow up with teams who have not to determine if they are dropping out of the competition. Papers submitted after 11:00 pm will not be reviewed, this rule is firm, so wise teams will submit their paper by 10:55 pm.
- Confirm with each team that their paper was received
- Confirm that papers are anonymous and contain only the identifying number and no further information
- Confirm paper submissions are in compliance with the above rules distributed to teams
- Compile the papers to be sent to each judge in a zip file and email it to them

Task 5: Finalist notification

- Each lecturer will reply with ranked ordering of papers from the selection they read
- This will result in 4 finalists in the competition
- Based on emails from lecturers, use crosswalk created during paper anonymization to determine which teams were selected as finalists. To do this, sum the two rankings assigned each paper and the four papers with the lowest rankings advance. In the event of a tie, note that we aim to place the threshold so that 3-5 teams enter the final round.
- Email all finalist teams to notify them (as close to 8:00 am as possible) and to remind them about the networking breakfast at 9:00am and the presentation they will be giving at 10:00 am
- Email all non-finalist teams to inform them and invite them to the networking breakfast and to watch the presentations at 10:00 am

Task 6: Judge support

- Arrive early on the morning of the final presentations to greet the food and ensure the building is unlocked
- **Print copies of finalist papers to give to judges as well as judging instructions**
 - When you print these copies, please replace the random number cover sheet with a cover sheet for each paper that identifies authors and schools writing each paper
 - Print one copy for each judge and one spare copy of each paper
 - Printing should be billed to our CLI account
 - **Also print the prompt**
- Welcome judges and sponsors from Cornerstone and Brattle (and follow up with judges who are running late)
- Make small talk with sponsors and engage members of Oeconomica in this small talk

- Ensure that board members meet the sponsors so that we can engage them in future metrics games
- Keep time during presentations
 - No more than 20 min for the team presentation
 - No more than 30 min for each team total
 - A team who presents for 15 minutes therefore has 15 minutes remaining to receive feedback from the judges
- Distribute judging instructions to Judges

Task 7: Prize distribution

- Set a time for judges to return with their selections and notify teams of this time
- Once teams have reconvened, announce 3rd, then 2nd, then 1st place teams and distribute prizes accordingly:
 - 3rd place team gets signed freakonomics for each member
 - 2nd place team gets signed freakonomics and airpods for each member
 - 1st place team gets signed freakonomics and ipad for each member
- Thank teams and judges

Instructions for Lecturers (UChicago Team Qualifier)

Task 1 (Saturday 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

- Deciding who advances to the final round from among the UChicago teams
- A member of Oeconomica will be present in the room to ensure that each team spends no more than 10 minutes presenting their research and that the feedback from the judges does not exceed 15 minutes from when the presentation began.
 - This means that a team which presents their slides in 8 minutes will be given up to 7 minutes of Q&A, while one that uses their entire 10 minutes may only be given 5 minutes of Q&A.
- Rules regarding appropriate and inappropriate feedback
 - The slides and research should be relevant to the prompt
 - A strong presentation will do the following:
 - Slide 1: Introduce the team
 - Slide 2: Introduce the question explored based on the prompt
 - Slide 3 - 4: Present main model, results, and why they matter
 - Slides 5-7: Present tables and figures that robustly prove that the results presented in slide 3 are true and grounded in the data.
 - A strong presentation will not:
 - Summarize the dataset (everyone is using the same thing and thus this would be redundant. The competition organizers will present on the dataset at the beginning of the judging so that everyone is on equal footing)
 - Summarize related literature (frankly this presentation is about your contribution)
 - Teams will be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?

Instructions for Lecturers (Main Competition)

Task 1 (Saturday 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

- Providing feedback to the teams about their research plan
- Teams will be divided evenly between two rooms (SHFE 146 and SHFE 021) and in each room there will be two lecturers (Lima & Kuevibulvanich in 146, Pieters & Roark in 021)
- A member of Oeconomica will be present in the room to ensure that each team spends no more than 5 minutes presenting their research idea and that the feedback from the judges does not exceed 10 minutes from when the presentation began.
 - This means that a team which presents their idea in 3 minutes will be given up to 7 minutes of feedback, while one that uses their entire 5 minutes may only be given 5 minutes of feedback.
- Rules regarding appropriate and inappropriate feedback
 - Lecturers should be impartial and fair to all teams, some teams will have quite good presentations and others will be evidently lacking, but all should be afforded attention and valuable feedback
 - Lecturers, may not suggest changes to the research topic or “more interesting” directions to take the research. There is simply not enough time in the competition to change the research at this point, and it provides an unfair advantage to teams who write a more interesting paper based on a lecturer's topic suggestion
 - Lecturers should suggest weaknesses in the empirical techniques used by teams (are their standard errors robust, do they have endogeneity problems to address, are they including appropriate controls, etc.)
 - Lecturers should suggest alternate explanations driving results which successful papers would disprove in a section on robustness checks

Task 2 (At some point between 11:00 pm and 7:50 am on Sunday)

- Selecting finalist teams
- Half of the papers in the competition will be allocated to each lecturer by a random process (explicitly enumerated above). These papers will be anonymized and distributed by email shortly after 11:00pm on Saturday. Each team's paper will be sent to two lecturers, one of whom saw their topic pitch and the other who did not.
- Lecturers shall read the papers (each of which will have no more than 5 pages of text and will be no more than 10 pages in length, including the appendix with tables and figures, but excluding bibliographic references and the cover sheet)
- Teams should be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)
 - Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?

- Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
- Clear and concise writing
- Each lecturer will independently rank the papers in their set of papers with 1 being the best and higher numbers being worse.
- Lecturers should email Eric (ekarsten@uchicago.edu) with the random numbers corresponding to their finalist ranking by no later than 7:50am on Sunday.
- Eric will sum the rankings of the two lecturers who read each paper and the teams with the lowest total score will advance.

Instructions for Judges

Judges will be invited to breakfast at 9:00 am in SHFE 146. They will then hear presentations at 10:00 am from the finalist teams in the metrics game. Judges should ask questions seminar-style throughout the presentations (each of the finalists will be capped at 30 minutes including all questions and answers).

Teams should be judged on the following criteria (in order of descending importance)

- Relevant and economically interesting answer to the prompt
 - Is the research question clearly stated?
 - Is it well motivated?
 - To the extent possible, is it well positioned within the literature?
- Robust and thoughtful econometric technique
 - Is a (parsimonious) formal model written down?
 - Is the model explained? Is it clear what the coefficients of interest are?
 - Are the identification assumptions clearly stated?
 - Are results presented in clear tables with alternate specifications?
 - Does the paper acknowledge the potential for alternative explanations that fit the same fact pattern?
 - How do the participants check for robustness?
- Clear and concise writing

After all teams have presented, judges shall convene in private and select a 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place team. They should then report their selections to the metrics game coordinator and attend the announcement of the winners to congratulate those teams.