

The Planetary Defense Conference (PDC) invites students worldwide to participate in its 2025 Student Competition. This event offers a unique platform to present research on planetary defense at the 9th IAA Planetary Defense Conference in South Africa. Participants will have the opportunity to present their work to a panel of experts and compete for cash prizes, sponsored by GMV.

Eligibility: In-person participation in the conference. For more information, please visit the [Planetary Defense Conference 2025 website](https://iaaspace.org/pdc) at <https://iaaspace.org/pdc>.

Competition Steps:

Step 1: Abstract Submission

- **Deadline:** December 15th, 2024
- **Action:** Submit an abstract detailing your research on planetary defense through the conference's [official submission portal](#). Single and multi-author entries are accepted.

Step 2: Notification of Selection

- **Timeline:** January 20th, 2025
- **Action:** Selected students will receive notification of their acceptance to present at the conference.

Step 3: Extended Abstract Submission

- **Deadline:** April 4th, 2025
- **Action:** Submit a mandatory extended abstract of your research, between 2 and 7 pages (sources and references excluded). Meeting this deadline and length requirement will automatically qualify you for the student competition.

Step 4: Evaluation

- **Process:** Your extended abstract and on-site presentation (oral or poster) will be evaluated by a panel of planetary defense experts during the conference.

Step 5: Awards Ceremony

- **Date:** PDC 2025 Banquet (May 9th, 2025)
- **Event:** Winners will be announced, and prizes awarded at the 2025 PDC Banquet.
 - **1st Prize:** \$500
 - **2nd Prize:** \$300
 - **3rd Prize:** \$200

Planetary Defense Conference 2025 Key Session Topics include:

1) Ongoing and Upcoming Mission Highlights
2) Hypothetical Asteroid Threat Exercise
3) Key International and Policy Developments
4) Near-Earth Object (NEO) Discovery
5) Near-Earth Object (NEO) Characterization
6) Deflection / Disruption Modeling & Testing
7) Space Mission & Campaign Design
8) Impact Effects & Consequences
9) Disaster Management & Impact Response
10) Public Education and Communication
11) The Decision to Act: Political, Legal, Social and Economic Aspects

This competition is an excellent opportunity to contribute to planetary defense research, receive feedback from leading experts, and gain recognition for your work. We encourage all eligible students to participate. For any questions regarding the PDC Student Competition, please contact:

- **Chair:** Alissa J. Haddaji (alissa.haddaji@spaceconsortium.org)
- **Vice-Chair:** Melissa Buys (mbuys@umd.edu)