



CUHK Centre for Bioethics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
香港中文大學生命倫理學中心

Doctor of Excellence x CUHK Centre for Bioethics **Bioethics Debate Competition 2024**

1. Introduction of the Organizer - Doctor of Excellence (DOE)

Doctor of Excellence (Student Committee) is a joint university student organisation run by medical students from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Since its founding in 2015, committee members have strived to support the increasing growth and development of the DOE program by working in collaboration with our doctor mentors.

Learn more about Doctor of Excellence:

- <https://www.med.cuhk.edu.hk/study/prospective-students/why-cu-medicine/why-cu/associations-and-activities>
- <https://www.med.hku.hk/zh-hk/about-hkumed/life/student-societies>
- Instagram: @doctor_of_excellence
- Facebook: Doctor of Excellence

2. Objectives

- **Enhance the analytical abilities and critical thinking skills of aspiring medical students**

Our bioethics debate competition aims to provide secondary school students the opportunity to analyse complex bioethical dilemmas from various angles, evaluate evidence, and draw well-reasoned conclusions. Participants will also develop the capacity to critically reflect on the ethical issues in medicine by defending positions that may be opposing to their own and making quick judgements to form rebuttals.

- **Foster an understanding of ethical dilemmas in medical practice and cultivate an appreciation for the bioethical principles that underpin healthcare delivery**

This event aims to deepen participants' understanding of some of the fundamental pillars in bioethics that guide medical practice, including principles namely: autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice. By exploring how these principles apply to real-world scenarios, and the implications behind the moral judgment related to medical interventions, policies, and practices, participants are encouraged to apply their ethical reasoning and decision-making skills in a designated setting. Aspiring medical students will also gain awareness of contemporary bioethical dilemmas and their ethical complexities.

- **Develop communication and presentation skills**

Through a preliminary essay round and debate in front of judges and peers, participants will have the opportunity to articulate their perspectives clearly and persuasively in writing and orally. Participants will be able to engage in rebuttals and listen attentively to opposing viewpoints and learn to organize their points logically and ensure they are supported by research evidence and ethical reasoning.

- **Cultivate teamwork, collaboration and research skills**

Our bioethics debate competition aims to encourage collaboration among students as they research together to prepare arguments, counterarguments, and rebuttals. Participants will be able to implement and enhance their research skills that involve gathering evidence, analysing case studies, and citing relevant literature as well as effectively share responsibilities and cultivate synergies by working in a team setting.

3. Supporting organisation

- CUHK Centre for Bioethics, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



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4. Programme details

- Preliminary essay submission and final round debate
- Date of final round: 14th September, 2024 (Saturday)
- Time of final round: 13:00-18:00
- Location of final round: CUHK
- Language: The content of the programme will be delivered **in English**. It is crucial for students to assess their language proficiency before making the application.

5. Programme walkthrough

<u>Task</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>
Deadline for group application.	24th June, 2024 (Mon)
Release of prompt for preliminary essay and rubric.	By the end of June
Deadline for submission of preliminary essay.	15th July, 2024 (Mon)

Result announcement for shortlisted teams advancing to the debate competition.	5th August, 2024 (Mon)
Release of debate prompts and rubric.	24th August, 2024 (Sat)
Debate competition and debriefing by adjudicators.	14th September, 2024 (Sat)
A certificate (as a form of an e-copy) will be issued to participants for FULL attendance of the half-day competition.	Late September
Prizes and awards (Please refer to section 6).	To be announced

6. **Prizes and awards**

- The winning team and the best debater will be awarded the prize of publishing an article / piece of choice in the upcoming CUHK Centre for Bioethics' CUBE Newsletter.
- All individuals that have joined the preliminary essay round will be awarded a certificate recognizing their participation.
- All individuals that have been shortlisted to proceed to the debate competition will be awarded a certificate recognizing their status as finalists of the competition.

7. **Eligibility**

- Secondary school students who will be in S4 (or Grade 10/Year 11), S5 (or Grade 11 / Year 12) or S6 (or Grade 12 / Year 13) in September 2024.
- In each team, the four students should come from the same school.
- Multiple entries from the same school are allowed.

8. **Application procedures**

Applicants are required to complete the online application ([link](#)) on or before 24th June (Mon) 23:59. Please note that only ONE student per team (team leader) is required to fill in the google form. Late applications or incomplete submissions will NOT be considered.

9. **Selection criteria**

Teams will be shortlisted by a panel composed of judges from the CUHK Centre for Bioethics. Selection will be based on an 800-word (word count +/- 10%) preliminary essay in response to a certain topic. The essay will be marked by the panel of judges according to a marking rubric with emphasis on the depth of argument, clarity, and sophistication of ideas.



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10. Notification of results

All applicants will be notified by email of the results of the preliminary essay round in end-July.

11. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact us by email at doeexco@gmail.com.

Note:

- 1. Doctor of Excellence reserves the right to interpret, amend and / or cancel any of the aforesaid terms and conditions without prior notice given.*
- 2. All documents/information submitted will be kept strictly confidential and will **only** be used for selection purposes.*