GAIA

2024-2025

Recruitment
Package

2024

GAIA

Table of Contents

About GAIA

The Global Action Impact Association (GAIA) empowers college teams to conceive, design, prototype, and implement high-impact solutions for global sustainability. GAIA provides a platform for students to develop meaningful, measurable impact on an international scale. Our combination of creative engineering and cultural sensitivity offers a unique opportunity for working in the multi-pronged innovation environment of the future.

The program aims to **(1)** leverage students' abilities and insights to maximize positive contributions to people in need and **(2)** grow students' interest, experience, and commitment to impact-focused careers in global development and sustainability.

The competition has a new theme each year, focused on different aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. **This year's competition is based on goal 7, clean energy**. The competition consists of **(1)** a design and prototyping phase in the fall and spring terms and **(2)** an implementation phase in the summer term. In both phases, teams will work in partnership with WindAid, a Peruvian wind energy nonprofit, to develop effective solutions.

How to Form a Team

Students with backgrounds/interests in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and leadership are encouraged to apply. All students from the same school, once accepted, will come together to form a team. The process begins with individual interviews to determine if competitors could be a good fit for the competition. Following the recruitment of enough competitors for each respective team, we will work with all students in their schools to form a team. If you want to apply and have a team in mind, urge your peers to apply as well and include information about your acquaintances in your application form. However, **having teammates is not a requirement to apply**. We will assist in recruiting team members at your school.

The ideal team size is at least 5 students and at most 15. It is recommended that electrical and mechanical engineers compose 80% of the team. We have created and shared several promotional materials for your use in building your team (including flyers, social media templates, and details on your school's club fest). These materials can be reached at **our website**. Our recruitment team will happily assist in your team recruitment efforts and can be reached at **gaiacompetition@gmail.com**.

Team Suggestions

5-15 Students
**having teammates is not a requirement to apply

Majority electrical or mechanical engineering majors

Interest in mechanical / electrical engineering, computer science and leadership

QR Code to Apply:
We encourage you to share this code with your peers.

Competition Structure

The competition is split into in three phases. Deliverables have been **highlighted**.

Phase I: Design & Prototyping

In this phase, teams will work with GAIA organizers and partner communities (the communities that will be impacted by the designs) to create a high-impact design that fits within the parameters of the applicable problem statement. At the end of this phase, teams will present a **1 hour technical pitch and 10 minute non-technical presentation of their design and will complete a live demonstration of a prototype.**

Phase II: Implementation

Following the completion of the first phase comes the plan for the implementation of the device and the trip to our partner community for implementation. In this phase, teams work to create a report detailing the execution of their design, this report serves as the final deliverable for the phase. The last part of phase 2 is the **month-long trip to the partner community**. In 2025 our partner community will be in Africa. **We will help teams to send some of their members to go on the trip to implement a solution.**

See the next page for an outline of competition due dates and timings.

Competition Timeline

	Competitors
November	Teams form, kick-off event held
Late November	Yearly problem statement and updated competition rules announced
November to March	Phase 1 work period, with continuous support and mentoring
Late March	Phase 1 deliverables due (virtual submission)
Early April	Phase 1 competition (in-person): presentations, prototype demonstrations, phase 1 scores announced, awards ceremony
June	Phase 2 work period (in Peru): tentative work period from June 3rd to 28th

Promotional Materials

Outreach is the most important part of building a well rounded team. To encourage outreach at club fairs and other promotional events, GAIA has templates and custom materials that you can use to promote your team. All materials are linked on the Competitor's Google Drive under Promotional Materials. Please reach out to **gaiacompetition@gmail.com** with any questions.
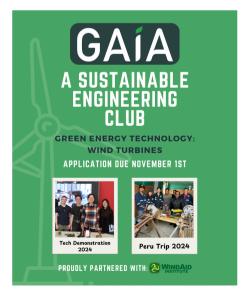
General Materials:

- Digital Poster
  - Send this to engineering faculty to get the word out to engineering classes and print it to hang around campus.
- Instagram Templates
  - Post this on your personal Instagram to spread the word about recruitment.
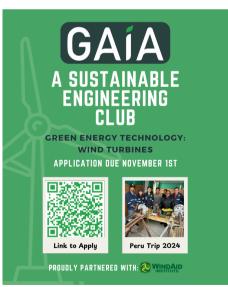
Club Fest Materials:
(Available on Request)

- GAIA Banner
- Club Fair Handouts
- Laser-cut QR codes
- Stickers

Link to the Competitor's Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mtbn7vlZTKKUjTPwb6ht4t5fBdbXJB8y?usp=sharing

FAQs

1. What resources are available to help me during the competition?

GAIA has resources from WindAid (our partner organization) on turbines and designs which are available to competitors. In addition, GAIA provides weekly office hours with competition organizers from fields related to our problem statement. These office hours are held in order for competitors to ask questions about their designs and progress in the competition etc.

2. What makes GAIA unique?

Founded by students for students, GAIA is built upon the intersection of academia and practicum for a real-world impact. Our emphasis on community partnership and cultural sensitivity provides a foundation for genuine, positive impact. Additionally, participation in GAIA offers a variety of networking opportunities from industry professionals and acclaimed academics to nonprofit representatives.

3. What type of competitors is GAIA looking for?

Every team is made up of a variety of competitors with different strengths and backgrounds. However, teams will need approximately 60-80% mechanical and electrical engineers to successfully design a prototype. We encourage anyone who has an interest in engineering, design, or sustainable impact to apply.

4. How do I join GAIA?

Submit the application form on **our website** by Friday, November 1st. Applications are considered on a rolling basis. Interviews will be offered, and once accepted to participate in this year's GAIA competition, further information on timelines, materials, and resources will be provided.

5. How do I ensure I'm on the same team as the people I have in mind?

All selected applicants from the same school will be combined into one team. If you have peers you want as teammates, encourage them to apply. You can also provide information on your acquaintances in your application.

Work with Us

This year, World Bicycle Relief is supporting our mission by empowering communities through sustainable transportation solutions. Inspired by their commitment to innovation and impact, our teams are challenged to design and prototype a new wind turbine that enhances performance and aligns with sustainable development goals. This initiative will allow us to combine technical ingenuity with World Bicycle Relief's vision of creating lasting change, ultimately supporting energy and mobility solutions in communities that need them most.

Instagram

@gaiacompetition

Email Address

gaiacompetition@gmail.com

Website

www.gaiacompetition.com