

International Case Competitions

What is a Case Competition?

Teams of 4 students from universities across the world compete to solve fictitious or sometimes real business problems for different business entities. We've seen cases for Whole Foods, Wells Fargo Bank, Audi and many others. Examples of business problems are a huge range like how best to market a product or how to expand a company. The teams meet at the university hosting the competition and have the opportunity to solve from 1-3 cases while there. Long cases, with many variables, require 24+ hours to complete while short, less complicated, cases can be completed in 3-5 hours. In addition to preparing case solutions, teams have the opportunity to network with other students from around the world and learn about the culture of the host city.

Competition Format

16-18 Teams are divided into 4 divisions and their presentations are verbally delivered with a PowerPoint presentation in front of 4-6 judges. During case preparation, the competing teams are sequestered in a room to avoid input from any other sources. The judges base their ranking decisions on the caliber of the presentation, the strength and innovation of the solution and the analysis of the problem. These judges are often corporate executives from the case company, executives from other companies and university faculty. Teams are ranked and the winning teams from each division deliver a second presentation (same case) in front of all the judges and the other teams. A winner is chosen from this group.

Haas Case Competition Travel

The Haas Undergraduate program has co-sponsored one internal (on campus) case competition with Goldman Sachs each spring for over 20 years. All Haas majors are eligible to participate in this internal competition. We also participate in 8-9 external (off-campus) competitions per year. We are invited to compete at several universities in many different countries. Our travels often include; Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Serbia, Spain and occasionally New Zealand. Nationally, we travel to Los Angeles, Georgetown, Seattle and Gainesville.

Selection

Students for the Haas external travel teams are selected mainly based on their experience. When the request for candidates is emailed, anyone interested can submit their resume. Those participants selected from the resumes received will have the opportunity to "audition" for a spot on one of the external travel teams. Team members are selected from this group. For the students that travel, this is an all-expenses paid trip that generally lasts about one week. The Haas UG program usually participates in 8-9 competitions each year. Our teams must complete 3 simulations and 2 workshops before they are ready to travel.

How to find Case Competitions:

Many corporations use case competitions as a recruiting tool. Competitions are the perfect vehicle to see potential employees in action. The UG program office does not keep a list of active case competitions so you will have to do some research to find them.

- On [Handshake](#), the UC Berkeley Career Center's powerful recruiting platform for UC Berkeley students and alumni. The Career Center will have companies post any case competitions under "Events" or in the "Job/Internship" section.
- Some Haas student organizations may promote upcoming case competitions (HBSA, Imagical, BWIB, HUBBA, etc.) A list of Haas sponsored student organizations can be found [here](#).
- Your best source of information will be the [Haas Business School Association \(HBSA\)](#). HBSA often includes upcoming case competition information in their weekly newsletter. HBSA also sponsors one to two case competition workshops each year to help prepare students to participate in a case competition. Late in fall, HBSA will sponsor an internal novice case competition for all Haas majors. Keep an eye on your email for more information about these events.

If you have specific questions about case competitions, please feel free to email Dresden John at Dresden_john@haas.berkeley.edu.