

Bahas FAQ

1. How can schools register for the competition?

Schools may register through the form that is circulated to schools via emails. Alternatively, schools may sign up using the form on the Bahas Academy webpage.

2. What will the students receive from the competition?

Students will gain an exceptional experience in preparing for a debate and debating in Malay Language, alongside a unique experience of meeting new friends and learning from each other.

We have also prepared Awards and Recognitions for outstanding performance not just at the national level but also at the school level, and we continue to explore how we can better appreciate each student for his and her gifts.

3. Does Bahas Academy do more than just Debate?

Yes, we organize oracy activities locally and regionally with partners. If you are keen on other activities (including Pidato, Pantun, or immersion), do reach out to us and we will look at organizing them based on your availability and needs.

4. How do we select Judges?

We invite judges based on experience and commitment, among other criteria. The assignment of judges is carefully done to avoid bias or conflicts of interests, and the Chief Judge is one who is most experienced on the topic and with the expected students' skills and knowledge but is also most experienced in facilitating a healthy discourse among judges to ensure a fair and critical assessment across rounds.

5. How do we craft and assess *Mauduk* to ensure that it is fitting, strong and relevant?

We assess each *Mauduk* using 17 indicators across 4 areas: Sentiment, Significance, Style and Structure, and compare them to ensure that they are fair to students and appropriate to the respective rounds of the competition.

For example, 1 indicator is whether the *Mauduk* is defensible, and so we engage alumni debaters and relevant academics/ practitioners to debate the *Mauduk*. If there are sufficient points on both Proposition and Opposition, then this indicator is passed.

6. How do we ensure fairness in assessing the debate?

The Judges are selected carefully to ensure relevant experience and skills and avoid any bias or conflicts of interest. By policy design, the judging process and outcome are independent of the administration or external sources, and the administration studies the judges' evaluations and notes against past debates to better understand how the process and rubrics can be evolved further.

The rubrics themselves are designed in consultation with NIE and teachers and they are aligned to best practices in debates locally and regionally.

7. What are the feedback channels for any grievances or concerns?

For any query or concerns relating to the administration, please reach out to the Staff in-charge, Ms. Sabilayaty, at (sabila@4pm.org.sg).

For any grievances or complaints relating to fairness and ethical conduct, please reach out to the overseeing Vice-President (muhammadashik.4pm@gmail.com). Do reach out to VP as well if you wish to report an irregular conduct by any participant.

We invite all participants to share their views with us through appropriate feedback channels, so that we can better understand the situation together, and even improve the competition for future participants. We remind all participants to avoid unfair practices to pressure or influence any staff or volunteer in any capacity.

4PM is committed to the protection of students, staff and volunteers and we will not hesitate to take the appropriate action against cyberbullying, harassment, or other unfair practices.

8. My students want to try Bahas, but we have no coach or subject matter expert. Does the academy provide support for schools?

Bahas Academy provides workshops for all schools (including Primary Schools) to ensure that each learner has a chance to experience debate, based on their level of knowledge and skills. For special schools, we provide a customized workshop and debate that fit students' profiles and needs.

We invite teachers to be part of the workshop as we curate a meaningful experience for diverse learners with specific needs. It can be difficult for learners to adapt quickly to the demands of a debate, so it would be helpful to have a trusted mentor and familiar face in the workshop who can guide the trainers in reaching out to the students.

9. How can my school or students contribute back to Bahas Academy?

We invite students to be part of the Bahas Academy Community, where they may participate in other oracy activities including regional debates and field trips. They may even consider participating in future competitions as part of the Bahas Committee, who is responsible in designing and implementing the competitions.

Committed youths may even consider programs beyond Bahas Academy to give back to the community in other ways. We applaud all youths who are committed to grow with the community in deeper, more meaningful ways.

10. My school is unable to compete due to insufficient numbers. Could the Academy provide an exception to the team requirements?

We are carefully studying the challenges brought about by the lower numbers of Malay Language speakers in schools and are exploring alternative team combinations to ensure fairness across schools. We invite schools to share their concerns with us, so that we can arrive at an equitable outcome together, one that is fair to students across schools.