



1. Why does FOBISIA offer Student Events?

FOBISIA Student Events aim to enrich the FOBISIA Member School student experience by providing opportunities to enhance their cross-cultural, leadership and teamwork skills, while building resilience, creating friendships and having fun.

2. What sort of Student Events does FOBISIA offer?

FOBISIA offers opportunities for Member Schools to host and participate in Student Events across any academic subject area, from English, Maths and Science, to Drama, Music and Sports. Events take numerous forms including individual and team challenges and competitions, festivals and conferences. Events can take place in person as a face-to-face event with students travelling to another Member School or central hub to participate. FOBISIA also offers virtual or online events and is exploring hybrid event models for combined face-to-face and online participation.

3. What does FOBISIA's Annual Calendar of Student Events look like?

FOBISIA's Annual Calendar of Student Events features a number of core on-going events, including Performing Arts Events (e.g. Drama and Music Festivals), The Games (i.e. friendly Primary, U13s and U15s Games), Sports Invitationals (e.g. Gymnastics, Climbing, Swimming, and Tennis), and Academic Events (e.g. Maths, D+T Creative Coding, Short Story and Languages Competitions), and Conferences (e.g. Environmental and Student Leadership Conferences). FOBISIA Student Events are by no means set in stone; Member Schools and FOBISIA HQ also initiate new events, some of which are so popular that they are offered annually (e.g. Race4Good). In fact, this is how most FOBISIA Student Events start. Full details of upcoming Student Events can be found on the FOBISIA website and an overview of annual events is in the Membership Handbook.

4. Who can participate in FOBISIA Student Events?

FOBISIA Student Events are usually aimed at a particular year group or Key Stage and events are designed to be as inclusive as possible. Participation in FOBISIA Student Events is open to students from all FOBISIA Member Schools, including both Full and Associate Members. On occasions, where an event is designated as an 'in-country' event, only schools within the host country are invited to join. This format became a popular option during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the discretion of the host school, non-member schools may be invited to join an event; these events are called 'FOBISIA Invitationals'.

5. Who can host FOBISIA Student Events?

All FOBISIA Full Member Schools can host FOBISIA Student Events. Schools that are Associate Members are not permitted to host Student Events until they are fully accredited and subsequently designated as Full Member Schools, so as to ensure that student safeguarding is not compromised in any way.

From time to time, FOBISIA HQ works with external providers that offer specialised Student Events. For example, although they were successfully hosted in Member Schools for many years, The Games are now managed by an external provider and are located in a specialised facility in order to accommodate the growth of the Federation. FOBISIA HQ also works with providers of mainly online events to ensure a diverse range of event categories and formats are available to the membership throughout the academic year.

6. How are Student Event hosts selected, set up and managed?

In term 2 of each academic year, (January to March) FOBISIA requests Student Events Proposals to be submitted by Member Schools interested in hosting events for the following academic year. This process is coordinated by FOBISIA HQ with input from FOBISIA's Student Events Committees.

The Games are hosted by an external provider who is contracted by the FOBISIA Board and FOBISIA HQ. Drama and Music Festivals are generally planned with a two-year lead time and hosting proposals for two years ahead are sought after each event.

FOBISIA HQ's Student Events Executive coordinates the planning of Student Events once they are confirmed and can connect the event host with previous hosts for additional information and support. The Student Events Executive also supplies feedback from previous events to enable the host to build on successes, adapt processes and understand any challenges faced. Where relevant, if the host feels they require outside support in hosting an event, the Student Events Executive connects the host with appropriate Affiliate Members.

Once the planning of the event is complete, the organisation and delivery of the event is managed by the host school, with support from the FOBISIA HQ's Student Events Executive, particularly with promotion of the event.

7. How are FOBISIA Events promoted?

All Student Events are promoted on the FOBISIA website and through social media. Events are also added to the relevant FOBISIA Events Calendar, accessible via the FOBISIA website.

Once a school has committed to host a confirmed event, they are requested to supply a promotional flyer to FOBISIA HQ. This flyer is posted on the FOBISIA website as well as FOBISIA's social media channels.

At the beginning of each term or as an event approaches, FOBISIA HQ sends a notification of the event, along with the flyer and any registration details to Heads of School and designated FOBISIA Lead's at all Member Schools.

Periodically, as an event or closing date for registration approaches, FOBISIA HQ can send reminders through its social media channels.

8. Other than hosting, how are Member Schools involved in the planning of Student Events?

FOBISIA has established a number of Student Events Committees where additional coordination is required to support the planning of multiple large-scale events hosted by Member Schools (i.e. Drama, Music and Sport & PE). Working groups are also established from time to time to deliver collaborative projects. FOBISIA's Student Events Committees are supported by FOBISIA HQ's Student Events Executive and have a conduit to the FOBISIA Board via an elected Board liaison. They meet at least bi-annually and have oversight of all events that come under their subject area to ensure consistent quality of delivery. The committees also work to support collaboration between FOBISIA Member Schools within and across regions, and to promote and develop continuing professional development for staff within their respective subject areas.

9. Are there costs for Member Schools to participate in Student Events and what do these cover?

Costs to participate in Student Events are decided by the host school and are budgeted on a "break even" basis. HQ keeps a record of event charges to ensure consistency of offers.

For face-to-face events, costs usually include attendance at the event, transfers between hotels and event location, catering during the event day and, depending on the event, may also include additional cultural excursions and a gala dinner event. What is included in the event fee is outlined by the host school to participants. Fees do not usually include flights and hotels, but host schools secure and promote hotel 'deals' and preferred hotels where possible.

Virtual and online Student Events which are hosted by Member Schools are usually hosted free of charge.

10. What are The Games?

The FOBISIA Friendly Games aim to provide sporting opportunities at an appropriate level in a safe and competitive environment, by ensuring equal opportunity and participation for both boys and girls, and providing a learning experience in sportsmanship, the value of healthy competition, and the benefits of training in preparation for competition.

There are three games series per year; the Under 15s Friendly Games (held in November), the U13s Friendly Games (held February to March) and the U11s Friendly Games (held April to June). The Under 15s are open to years 9 and 10, the Under 13s are open to years 7 and 8, and the Primary Games (or Under 11s) are open to children in school years 5 and 6.

The Games consist of four disciplines which differ between Primary and Secondary, as follows:

Primary Games: Athletics, Football, Swimming and Tee-Ball

Under 13s and Under 15s Games: Athletics, Basketball, Football and Swimming

In the spirit of their moniker, there is no overall winner of the Friendly Games.

11. Do all schools participate in The Games?

All Member Schools are eligible to compete in The Games, but it is the school's choice as to whether they participate or not. Some schools elect to participate in only one or two games series in a given year, depending on the number of athletes they have in those respective age groups.

12. How are the groups determined for The Games?

As a growing Federation, it is not possible to hold one Games event per series (or age group). Each year, Member Schools are placed into a group of around eight schools. This process is coordinated by FOBISIA HQ in consultation with the FOBISIA Sport & PE Committee. Member Schools are consulted during this process to establish a clear understanding of where they should be placed.

Groups are based on the level of competitiveness within school teams, as well as other factors, including availability, ensuring a good regional spread, and grouping schools that have a smaller number of athletes. Ultimately, the number of schools who nominate to participate in each series determines the number of groups.

Full details on The Games can be found in the Friendly Games Handbooks published on the FOBISIA website.

12. How is student safeguarding addressed through FOBISIA Student Events?

Safeguarding of Student Events is high priority. Membership of FOBISIA requires schools to satisfy criteria outlined in FOBISIA's Constitution and By-laws, which require schools to have a Safeguarding Policy and a designated Child Protection Officer in place. The responsibility for the safety and protection of all students involved in events hosted by Member Schools lies with the host school. As such, only fully accredited Member Schools (categorised as Full Member Schools) are permitted to host Student Events to ensure that the necessary safeguarding protocols and best practices are in place and up to date.

Where events are hosted by FOBISIA HQ and delivered by external providers, FOBISIA HQ has a responsibility for the safety and protection of all students involved. As such, HQ staff are required to undergo accredited Safeguarding Training in Child Protection in International Schools. All external providers are required to sign and abide by FOBISIA's Safeguarding Student Events Hosted by External Providers Code of Conduct, and are responsible for ensuring the staff they engage on a paid or voluntary basis have signed a Safeguarding Code of Conduct and, where relevant, have the correct level of safeguarding training and police checks. The criteria for this is outlined in the FOBISIA HQ Safeguarding Student Events Hosted by External Providers Code of Conduct and Guidelines, which are available from FOBISIA HQ.

11. Who do I contact for further information on Student Events?

Please contact Janine Minchin, FOBISIA's Student Events Executive, at janine.minchin@fobisia.org for all matters relating to FOBISIA Student Events. You can also find out more information about upcoming events on FOBISIA's website at <https://www.fobisia.org/student-events>.