

FAQ Master Sheet

Information: [Getting To Rotorua](#)

- On the event days (Fri 30th Nov - Sun 1st Dec 2024), you will need to find your own way
- **Do I need a visa?**
Please refer to this website: [Visitor visas and the NZeTA](#)
- **Biosecurity.**
Please refer to this website: [Travelling to New Zealand](#)
- **How do I get there?**
 - You are responsible for finding your own way to Rotorua, please click on the following link for info to a central meeting point in Rotorua (location to be confirmed closer to the date). We will have a transport plan to get everyone from this central meeting point to the Soil Judging Sites.
 - Any other transport must be organised by the teams/ individuals themselves.
- **What number of participants can you accommodate?**
 - In order to ensure a great experience for all participants, we will need to have a maximum number of registered teams. This means that registrations are on a first in-first served basis. At this stage, we are limiting the total number of teams from outside Moana Oceania (New Zealand, Australia and islands of the South Pacific) to **four**. All teams are restricted to a maximum of **four** members.
- **What is the cost per individual?**
 - The registration fee is \$50. This covers a participant shirt, transport between Rotorua and the soil judging sites, and morning tea and lunches for the 3 days. The registration fee does not include transport to Rotorua or accommodation; teams and individuals are responsible for finding their own way to Rotorua and their own accommodation.
- **What experience is necessary?**
 - No previous experience in Soil Judging Competitions is required.
- **What are the accommodation options?**
 - A short list of recommended accommodation options will be available soon, in the meantime please click on the following link: [Accommodation In Rotorua](#)
- **What field supplies do we need to bring?**
 - The required equipment list can be found here: [SJC 2024 - Suggested Equipment List.docx - Google Docs](#)
- **Is catering provided?**
 - A Welcome BBQ dinner will be provided for all registered participants (and volunteers) the evening before the event starts (Thu 28th November) - this is included in the registration fee.

- On the three event days (Fri 29th Nov - Sun 1st Dec), morning tea and lunch will be provided. There will be a coffee cart on site if people wish to purchase hot drinks. We recommend that you bring your own snacks.
- On Sunday evening, we will organise an event-closing dinner at a local restaurant, however this is not covered by us and is at the cost of the individual.

- **Are there any training or mentoring opportunities before the event?**

- Staff from Lincoln University will be providing some online training materials for competitors, targeted at those who are unfamiliar with New Zealand's description & classification materials, as well as those new to Soil Judging.
- Examples of topics that we will cover include hand texturing, soil structure, horizonation, classification, Rotorua area geological history, competition tips and tricks, as well as photo example profiles for competitors to practise on.
- We aim to have this material online by mid-September 2024, and may update over the following few weeks.

For more information, please contact **Josh Nelson** at josh.nelson@lincoln.ac.nz

- **How can I find sponsorship for my team?**

- We can provide you with an example sponsorship letter as a guide for teams seeking their own sponsorship (contact Bianca Das, bianca.das@utas.edu.au to ask for a copy)
- Note that all participants are required to wear their entry shirt on competition day (Sunday 1st Dec), as this is a commitment to our event sponsors. Therefore if you are designing your own team-sponsored shirts, these can only be worn on the practice days.

- **Does our team need a coach?**

- Most of the university teams will bring a 'coach' with them. This is usually a tutor or similar from the university who is involved in managing the Soil Science courses that they link the competition into. The coach is usually someone with some experience in field soil methods, and they provide mentorship to their students over the 3 days at the competition – but a coach can also be someone who may have been involved in the training/organisation of the team, in any capacity.
- It's not a requirement for teams to have a coach though. Previously, when we have had teams without coaches (usually the working professionals), we have had a few “roaming experts” who move between the teams to answer questions and provide guidance and mentorship. This is also why there is no need to have someone experienced on your team.