

Ghidul Campionatului Național Microsoft Office Specialist din România

Campionatul Național Microsoft Office Specialist reprezintă o competiție prestigioasă, organizată anual în România de către Certipro Education și Fundația EOS în parteneriat cu Microsoft România.

Competiția are drept scop să identifice și să pună în evidență cei mai pasionați și talentați elevi și studenți în ceea ce privește utilizarea aplicațiilor din suita Microsoft Office, precum și să aducă recunoștință și apreciere pentru munca și eforturile profesorilor/dascălilor coordonatori.

Câștigătorii Campionatului național Microsoft Office Specialist vor reprezenta România la Campionatul Mondial Microsoft Office Specialist (MOSWC), ediția 2026, care se va desfășura în SUA, la Anaheim - California, în perioada 26 – 29 iulie 2026.

Pagina oficială a competiției este <https://campionatoffice.eos.ro>.

ETAPELE CAMPIONATULUI NAȚIONAL

Competiția se derulează în două etape, ambele fiind preliminare **Campionatului Mondial Microsoft Office Specialist (MOSWC)**.

- Etapa locală se desfășoară în intervalul **12 ianuarie - 3 aprilie 2026**
- Etapa națională va avea loc în perioada **15-30 aprilie 2026**.

CATEGORII DE CONCURS

Campionatul din România este structurat pe trei secțiuni de concurs pentru următoarele aplicații:

- Microsoft Office Specialist **WORD 365**
- Microsoft Office Specialist **EXCEL 365**
- Microsoft Office Specialist **POWERPOINT 365**

Condiții de eligibilitate pentru participanți

Competiția este adresată tinerilor cu cetățenie română care îndeplinesc cumulativ următoarele criterii de eligibilitate:

- au vârsta cuprinsă între 13 ani (la momentul susținerii examenului MOS din etapa locală) și 22 de ani (până la data de 1 august 2026);
- sunt înscriși într-o unitate acreditată de învățământ din România.

Candidații care au participat la o ediție anterioară a **finalei mondiale din SUA** a Campionatului **NU** mai pot să participe la competiție în cadrul **aceleiași categorii de concurs**. De exemplu, dacă un elev a participat în finala globală la categoria Word, acesta nu mai poate să participe la competiție decât la categoriile Excel sau PowerPoint.

ÎNSCRIERE

Candidații eligibili se pot înscrie personal sau pot fi înscriși de profesori coordonatori / instituții de învățământ prin completarea formularului online care poate fi accesat prin intermediul paginii oficiale de internet a competiției: <https://campionatoffice.eos.ro>.

Data limită pentru înscrierea candidaților este **28 februarie 2026**.

Un candidat poate să se înscrie pentru una, două sau toate cele trei categorii de concurs în faza locală. Candidații care se înscriu la două sau trei categorii vor completa câte un formular de înscriere pentru fiecare categorie în parte și vor achiziționa examenele aferente. În cazul în care un candidat are scor de calificare în finala națională la două sau trei categorii, aceștia vor fi automat înscriși într-o singură categorie, cea în care a obținut cel mai mare scor.

PARTICIPARE

• PASUL 1 – ACHIZIȚIA EXAMENELOR

După confirmarea înscrierii de către organizatori (prin email), candidații trebuie să achiziționeze un examen Microsoft Office Specialist 365 Apps la alegere din cele trei categorii de concurs: Word 365, Excel 365 sau PowerPoint 365. Detalii despre achiziție vor fi transmise prin email de către organizatori. Candidații au posibilitatea să aleagă între:

- examene simple, la prețul de **301** lei cu TVA inclus - examenul se poate susține o singură dată.
 - examene cu re-examinare, la prețul de **362** lei cu TVA inclus - în cazul nepromovării la prima încercare, candidatului i se mai oferă o șansă de promovare.
- ### • PASUL 2 – PREGĂTIREA PENTRU EXAMEN

După achiziția examenelor, candidații primesc de la organizator în mod gratuit acces la resurse de pregătire și teste practice (simulări ale examenelor). Candidații utilizează aceste resurse pentru a se pregăti pentru susținerea examenului MOS.

Parcurgerea conștiincioasă și temeinică a Resurselor oferite asigură nivelul necesar de competențe în vederea promovării cu succes a examenelor MOS și calificării pentru următoarele etape.

- **PASUL 3 – SUSȚINEREA EXAMENELOR**

După o bună pregătire teoretică și practică, participanții susțin examenele Microsoft Office Specialist, la categoria de concurs aleasă.

Dacă instituția educațională a candidatului este Centru Autorizat de Testare Certiport, examenul va putea fi susținut:

- a) local, sub supravegherea coordonatorului centrului, sau
- b) online – sub supravegherea proctorului Certipro Education.

În cazul în care participantul provine dintr-o instituție educațională, care nu este Centru Autorizat de Testare Certiport, examenul va fi susținut doar online, sub supravegherea proctorului Certipro Education.

Susținerea online a examenelor MOS are loc prin intermediul platformei Certiport Exams from Home. Organizatorii pun la dispoziția candidaților informații tehnice referitoare la sistemele de operare și software la momentul înscrierii în competiție, precum și detalii referitoare la cum se efectuează programarea examenelor MOS.

Participanții susțin examenele MOS, la etapa locală, până pe 3 aprilie 2026, care reprezintă termenul limită pentru finalizarea acestei etape și calificare la etapa națională.

Toate examenele Microsoft Office Specialist se susțin în limba engleză!

- **PASUL 4 – CALIFICARE LA ETAPA NAȚIONALĂ ȘI LA CAMPIONATUL MONDIAL**

Primii 10 candidați din fiecare categorie de concurs (în total 30 de candidați), calificați în ordine descrescătoare punctajului obținut la nivel local, vor fi invitați să participe la etapa națională MOS2026.

Aceasta va avea loc la București, la sediul Microsoft, **în a doua jumătate a lunii aprilie 2026**. Data exactă va fi anunțată odată cu anunțarea finaliștilor.

La finala națională, candidații vor susține din nou examene MOS în categoriile lor de concurs. Certipro Education acoperă financiar achiziția examenelor MOS și le pune gratuit la dispoziția participanților.

Dintre cei 30 de participanți la etapa națională, trei candidați vor reprezenta România la MOSWC 2026 din SUA, astfel: candidatul cu cel mai bun punctaj la categoria Word, candidatul cu cel mai bun punctaj la categoria Excel și candidatul cu cel mai bun punctaj la categoria PowerPoint.

În situația în care punctajele candidaților care participă la examene în etapa locală și/sau națională sunt egale, criteriul de departajare folosit va fi timpul cel mai scurt în care a fost finalizat examenul.

OFERTA ORGANIZATORILOR

Certipro Education și Fundația EOS:

1. Vor oferi suport tehnic, administrativ și logistic pentru derularea eficientă și la termen a examenelor Microsoft Office.
2. Vor organiza etapa națională de selecție a candidaților care vor reprezenta România la MOSWC 2026, din SUA.
3. Vor acoperi cheltuielile de organizare și logistică, inclusiv contravaloarea examenelor susținute în etapa națională de calificare pentru toți candidații care participă la aceste sesiuni. **Notă: Certipro Education nu va acoperi cheltuielile de deplasare și/sau cazare ale candidaților calificați pentru faza națională.**
4. Împreună cu Microsoft Romania, vor acoperi integral **TOATE** cheltuielile de participare pentru candidații (3 elevi/studenti) care obțin cele mai bune punctaje la etapa națională a MOSWC 2026 pentru categoriile Word, Excel și PowerPoint 365 Apps pe toată perioada de derulare a MOSWC 2026 din Anaheim, California, SUA.
5. Vor asigura prezența unui însoțitor de grup pentru deplasarea în SUA.
6. Vor oferi asistență premergătoare obținerii vizelor și permiselor de călătorie în Statele Unite pentru candidații selecționați, în conformitate cu cerințele ambasadei SUA.

CALENDAR TERMENE LIMITĂ

28 februarie 2026	Înscriere candidați
3 aprilie 2026	Susținere examene – etapa locală
3 aprilie 2026	Anunțarea finaliștilor și a datei pentru finala națională
15-30 aprilie 2026	Finala națională și anunțarea câștigătorilor etapei naționale a MOSWC

Certiport's Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship Official Competition Rules

- 1) **BINDING AGREEMENT:** By participating in Certiport's Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship (the "Competition"), you ("you", the "Competitor") agree to these Official Competition Rules (the "Rules"). These Rules form a binding legal agreement between you and Certiport, a business of NCS Pearson, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, United States of America, having its principal offices at 5601 Green Valley Drive, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55437 Pearson with respect to the Competition.
- 2) **RELATIONSHIP TO PEARSON:** The Competition is branded and operated under the name "Certiport." Certiport is a business unit of NCS Pearson, Inc. ("Pearson"), and as such, Pearson is the ultimate legal entity responsible for the obligations, rights, and administration described in these Rules. For clarity and consistency, these Rules will use the name "Pearson" throughout, even though the Competition itself is marketed under the Certiport brand. References to "Pearson" include Certiport and its affiliated operations.
- 3) **PEARSON HAS SOLE AND UNLIMITED DISCRETION TO CHANGE ELEMENTS OF THE COMPETITION INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION, THE COMPETITION VENUE, THE COMPETITION ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND/OR OTHER ACCOMODATIONS.**
- 4) **COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY: THIS COMPETITION IS NOT AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF RUSSIA, BELARUS, CUBA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, SUDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ, LIBYA, SOMALIA, THE CRIMEA, DONETSK, AND LUHANSK REGIONS OF UKRAINE, AND ANY OTHER COUNTRY SANCTIONED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY.**

To be eligible to participate in the Competition, you must:

- a) have been identified as a winner in a Qualifying Round which is defined as an event that is sanctioned or recognized by Pearson, held at a local, national, or non-national regional level either physically or online which validates your ultimately eligibility to participate in the worldwide competition hosted by Pearson;
- b) be thirteen (13) years of age or older at the time you took the qualifying exam at the Qualifying Round; AND
- c) be twenty-two (22) years of age or younger before or on August 1, 2026;
- d) have permission from your parent or legal guardian, if you are under the age of eighteen (18) years old at the time of online registration, to participate in the Competition;
- e) be enrolled in an academic institution (approved by Pearson in its sole discretion) at the time you participated in the Qualifying Round;
- f) sign and submit during online registration, except where prohibited by law, the DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY/PUBLICITY RELEASE, which allows the Competition Entities to use a Competitor's name, likeness, and photo for advertising and promotional purposes; and
- g) provide any additional information that may be required by Competition Entities, including a mailing address and bank account information for receipt of the prize, should a Competitor win such prize.

You are **not eligible** to participate in the Competition if you:

- h) are 12 years of age or younger at the time you took the qualifying exam at the Qualifying Round
- i) are 23 years of age or older at any point before or on August 1, 2026

- j) are a resident of Colorado or Maryland;
- k) are a student at an education institution within the Chicago Public School District;
- l) are an employee, intern, contractor, representative, or agent of NCS Pearson, Inc. or Microsoft, including their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates (collectively, “Competition Entities”);
- m) are an immediate family member of an employee, intern, contractor, representative, or agent of the Competition Entities, including parents, siblings, children, spouses, and domestic partners, regardless of where they live;
- n) are a member of the same household, whether related or not, with an employee, intern, contractor, representative, or agent of the Competition Entities;
- o) have previously competed in the MOS World Championship, you are not eligible to compete in the same product track (e.g. Excel, Word, or PowerPoint), even if it is a different version of that product, but you may compete in a different product track (e.g. a previous competitor in the Excel product track can only compete in the Word or PowerPoint product tracks);
- p) are unavailable to attend the full Competition, including the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, July 29, 2026; or
- q) fail to provide or otherwise complete the DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND LIABILITY/PUBLICITY RELEASE and any additional information that may be required by Competition Entities.

5) COMPETITION PERIOD: The Competition will take place at the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship in Anaheim, California and begins on July 26, 2026, at 12:00 PM Eastern Time (“ET”) Zone in the United States and ends on July 29, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET. ***YOU MUST BE PRESENT IN THE COMPETITION WAITING AREA AT LEAST TEN (10) MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR ASSIGNED START TIME. PEARSON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY AND DISQUALIFY COMPETITORS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT IN THE COMPETITION WAITING AREA AT THEIR ASSIGNED START TIME.***

6) HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION: During the Competition, you will be instructed to take an exam and submit a project using the applicable Microsoft Office application on a computer provided to you by Pearson. Exam instructions, project brief and guidelines, and other applicable materials will be provided. If you require these materials in a language other than English, or additional accommodations, you must submit a request by December 31, 2025 to moschampionships@pearson.com.

The format of materials you receive will be dependent on the specific MOS exam you won during the Qualifying Round (i.e. winners of MOS Word exams will receive a Word exam and project). You will compete in one (1) of the following six (6) MOS exam categories: (i) Microsoft Word (Office 2019), (ii) Microsoft PowerPoint (Office 2019), (iii) Microsoft Excel (Office 2019), (iv) Microsoft Word (Microsoft 365 Apps), (v) Microsoft PowerPoint (Microsoft 365 Apps), or (vi) Microsoft Excel (Microsoft 365 Apps).

For the purposes of these Rules, “Competition Materials” means all material provided by Pearson for use during the Competition, including but not limited to the exam, exam instructions, project brief, brand guidelines, project assets, and any other guidance provided orally or in writing during the Competition.

All exams and projects (collectively, the “Submission”) must be completed during the Competition during the allocated time described in the Competition Materials. Limit of one (1) Submission or portion thereof, per Competitor, throughout the Competition. Submissions received from any Competitor in excess of the above stated limitation will be void. Submissions are void if they are in whole or part incomplete, altered, counterfeit, obtained through fraud, or late. Pearson reserves the

right to disqualify a Competitor for any Submission that does not conform with the Competition Materials, these Rules, or any other expectations and standards communicated by Pearson as part of the Competition.

- (a) **CODE OF CONDUCT:** All Competitors must abide by the following Code of Conduct for the entirety of the Competition:
1. Competitors must adhere to all local laws and ordinances governing the use of alcohol or tobacco at all times during their stay at the Competition. The use of illegal drugs by any and all attendees is prohibited at all times.
 2. Regardless of age, Competitors are required to always remain on the hotel property unless granted permission by the sponsoring partner to leave the grounds unaccompanied by a chaperone.
 3. All Competitors, regardless of age, are required to abide by any curfew or other limitations extended by Pearson.
 4. Any Competitor violating this code of conduct will be asked to leave the program and will be sent home at his or her own expense.
- (b) **MEAL CARDS:** Competitors will receive a prepaid gift card (the “Card”) to be used for meals during the Competition. Additional terms of use apply. Competitors will be required to sign an acknowledgment prior to receiving the Card.
- (c) **COMPETITOR EXPENSES:** Competitors, chaperones, and other attendees are solely responsible for all costs and expenses not expressly covered by Pearson. It is the responsibility of the attendee to ensure all such arrangements, including travel, accommodations, and incidentals are covered in advance of the Competition.

7) CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMPETITION MATERIALS: All Competition Materials are confidential. Competitors, chaperones and any attendees involved in the Competition are strictly prohibited from discussing, disclosing, or sharing any part of the Competition, Competition Materials, or content at any time during or after the Competition. This obligation of confidentiality is ongoing and does not expire after the Competition concludes. Any violation may result in disqualification and/or further action by Competition Entities.

8) REGISTRATION POSTPONEMENT (NON-U.S. COMPETITORS ONLY): If you qualify for the Competition and are unable to attend due to visa issues associated with entry into the United States, please contact the Certiport Authorized Partner in your region to discuss postponing your registration to the following year. Registration postponement does not waive any portion of these Rules, and postponed Competitors must still meet the Competition eligibility requirements outlined above.

9) WINNER DETERMINATION: At the conclusion of the Competition, a team of judges will review all Submissions. The one (1) Submission that receives the highest overall score in each MOS exam track will be deemed the First Prize winner (for a total of six (6) First Prize winners). The one (1) Submission that receives the next highest overall score in each MOS exam track will be deemed the Second Prize winner (for a total of six (6) Second Prize winners). The one (1) Submission that receives the next highest overall score in each MOS exam track will be deemed the Third Prize winner (for a total of six (6) Third Prize winners). In the event of a tie, the Competitor that completed the applicable MOS examination portion of the Submission in the shortest amount of time (as determined by Pearson in its sole discretion) will be selected as the winner of the applicable MOS

exam track prize. In the event a winner is disqualified for any reason, the Submission for the applicable MOS exam track that received the next highest total score will be chosen as the winner. Winner and prize determinations made by Pearson are conclusive and final. In the event no Submissions, or portions thereof, are received, no prizes will be awarded.

10) WINNER NOTIFICATION: On or about July 29,2026, the winning Competitors will be announced during the Awards Ceremony at the Competition. If a winner does not attend the Awards Ceremony, then such winner may be disqualified and an alternate potential winner may be selected from among all eligible Competitors based on the winner procedure described herein.

11) PRIZES. Prizes will be provided to winning Competitors solely via wire transfer from Pearson. Winning Competitors

must have bank account information readily available at the Competition and provide such details to Pearson in order to receive a prize. The following prizes will be awarded at the Competition:

MICROSOFT WORD (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT EXCEL (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT WORD (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), MICROSOFT EXCEL (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), & MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (MICROSOFT 365 APPS) FIRST PLACE PRIZES (6) (One (1) per applicable MOS exam track): \$8,000.00 USD

MICROSOFT WORD (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT EXCEL (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT WORD (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), MICROSOFT EXCEL (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), & MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (MICROSOFT 365 APPS) SECOND PLACE PRIZES (6) (One (1) per applicable MOS exam track): \$4,000.00 USD

MICROSOFT WORD (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT EXCEL (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (OFFICE 2019), MICROSOFT WORD (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), MICROSOFT EXCEL (MICROSOFT 365 APPS), & MICROSOFT POWERPOINT (MICROSOFT 365 APPS) THIRD PLACE PRIZES (6) (One (1) per applicable MOS exam track): \$2,000.00 USD

12) PRIZE SUBSTITUTIONS: Pearson reserves the right to substitute any prize, in whole or in part, of equal or greater monetary value if a prize cannot be awarded for any reason.

13) TAXES: All Competition prizes are awarded exclusive of any applicable taxes Pearson may be required by law to withhold. All taxes imposed on the prizes are the sole responsibility of the winning Competitor. Pearson may require additional tax information from winning Competitors prior to awarding a prize. If a winning Competitor fails to provide such requested information or violates any applicable tax laws or regulations, the prize will be forfeited, and Pearson, in its sole discretion, may select an alternate winner.

14) COMPETITION INTEGRITY: Pearson reserves the right to disqualify any Competitor from the Competition if, in Pearson's sole discretion, it reasonably believes that the Competitor has attempted to undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition by cheating, deception, or other unfair playing practices or annoys, abuses, threatens or harasses any other Competitor, attendee, viewer, Competition Entities, or the Judges.

15) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: As between Pearson and you, you retain ownership of all intellectual and industrial property rights (including moral rights) in and to your Submission. As a condition of participation, you grant Pearson, its subsidiaries, agents and affiliates, a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to use, reproduce, adapt, modify,

publish, distribute, publicly perform, create a derivative work from, and publicly display your Submission.

- 16) **PRIVACY:** You acknowledge and agree that Pearson may collect, store, share and otherwise use any personally identifiable information provided to Pearson throughout the Competition, including, but not limited to, name, mailing address, date of birth, email address, and any financial information collected to facilitate awarding any applicable prize. Pearson will use this information in accordance with its Privacy Policy, available at: <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/legal/privacy-and-cookies-policy.html> for purposes of administering and promoting the Competition and verifying your identity, contact information, and financial account information in the event you qualify for a prize. Your information may be transferred to countries other than your country of residence, including the United States, which may not have privacy laws and regulations similar to those of your country of residence. You have the right to request access, review, rectify, or delete of any personal data held by Pearson in connection with the Competition by writing to Pearson at: MOSChampionship@pearson.com.
- 17) **INDEMNIFICATION:** To the maximum extent permitted by law, Competitors agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Competition Entities from and against any and all claims, actions, suits or proceedings, as well as any and all losses, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of or in connection with:
- any Submission, or other materials uploaded or provided by Competitors that: (i) infringes any copyright, trademark, trade secret, trade dress, patent or other intellectual property rights of any person or entity; (ii) defames or disparages any person or entity, or violates the rights of publicity or privacy of any person or entity;
 - any misrepresentation made by you in connection with the Competition;
 - a Competitor's violation of these Rules;
 - claims related to your eligibility and involvement with the Competition; and
 - acceptance, possession, and use of any prize, if awarded.
- 18) **NO WARRANTY: COMPETITION ENTITIES HAVE NOT MADE AND COMPETITION ENTITIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE IN ANY MANNER FOR ANY WARRANTIES, REPRESENTATIONS, OR GUARANTEES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN FACT OR LAW, RELATING TO THE COMPETITION OR TO THE PRIZE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY WARRANTIES REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION, PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION, THE PRIZE, OR THE USE, VALUE, OR ENJOYMENT OF THE PRIZE.**
- 19) **NO LIABILITY:** Competition Entities are not responsible or liable to Competitors for any malfunction or for any late, lost, damaged, misdirected, incomplete, undeliverable, or destroyed Submissions due to system errors, any error in the collection, processing, or retention of exam information, failed or incomplete computer or other telecommunication transmission malfunctions, hardware or software failures of any kind, lost or unavailable network connections, typographical or system/human errors and failures, technical malfunction(s) of any telephone network or lines, cable connections, satellite transmissions, servers or providers, or computer equipment, traffic congestion on the Internet or at the Competition Site, or any combination thereof, including other telecommunication, cable, digital or satellite malfunctions which may limit your ability to participate. Competition Entities are not responsible or liable to Competitors for any typographical or other error in the printing, offering, or announcement of any prize of winners. Further, Competition Entities are not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal items. Competitors are responsible for their own belongings at all times.

- 20) RIGHT TO CANCEL, MODIFY OR DISQUALIFY.** Pearson reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Competition. If the Competition is terminated, Pearson will communicate whether winning Competitors will nonetheless be awarded and any associated selection process. Pearson further reserves the right to disqualify you and seek any remedies available to it at law if you: (1) violate these Rules; (2) disrupt the normal operations of the Competition; (3) provide false information to Pearson concerning your identity, contact information, or financial account information; or (4) undermine the legitimacy of the Competition or damage any property of Pearson, including the Competition website and registration page.
- 21) FORCE MAJEURE:** Pearson will not be liable for, and is excused from, any failure or delay in performing its obligations under this Competition if such performance becomes impracticable due to circumstances beyond Pearson’s reasonable control. These circumstances include, without limitation: natural disasters; acts of God, fire, storm, flood, riot, earthquake; terrorism; labor disputes or stoppages; government actions or order; epidemics, pandemics, or outbreaks of communicable disease; quarantine; national or regional emergencies; insurrection; civil disturbance; sabotage; embargo; blockade; war; power failure; Internet or communication line outages; or any other cause beyond Pearson’s control, whether similar or dissimilar to the foregoing. Pearson will notify the Competitor by email within ten (10) business days of the commencement of any force majeure event, describing the event and actions taken regarding the Competition (e.g., postponement, cancellation, relocation, or transition to a digital format), which may include but are not limited to the examples provided.
- 22) NOT AN OFFER OR CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT:** The Competition, including any invitations to participate or prizes awarded, does not constitute an offer or contract of employment between the Competitor and the Competition Entities. By participating in the Competition, Competitors agree that no confidential, fiduciary, agency, or other relationship, or implied-in-fact contract, exists between the Competitor and Competition Entities and that no such relationship is established by a Competitor’s participation in the Competition.
- 23) FORUM AND RECOURSE TO JUDICIAL PROCEDURES:** These Rules shall be governed by, subject to, and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota, United States of America, excluding all conflict of law rules. If any provision(s) of these Rules are held to be invalid or unenforceable, all remaining provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect. To the extent permitted by law, the rights to litigate, seek injunctive relief or make any other recourse to judicial or any other procedure in case of disputes or claims resulting from or in connection with this Competition are hereby excluded, and you expressly waive any and all such rights.
- 24) ARBITRATION; WAIVER OF CLASS ACTION.** By entering the Competition, you agree that any dispute arising out of or relating to the Competition or these Rules, including without limitation federal and state statutory claims, common law claims, and those based in contract, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other legal theory, shall be resolved through binding arbitration, on an individual basis (the “Arbitration Agreement”). All disputes between you and Pearson of any kind or nature arising out of these Rules shall be submitted to Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. for binding arbitration under its rules then in effect in Minnesota, before one arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon by both parties. The parties agree to share equally in the arbitration costs incurred. This Arbitration Agreement includes, without limitation, disputes arising out of or related to the interpretation or application of the Arbitration Agreement, including the enforceability, revocability, scope, or validity of the Arbitration Agreement or any portion of the

Arbitration Agreement. All such matters shall be decided by an arbitrator and not by a court or judge.

- 25) CLASS ACTION AND JURY TRIAL WAIVER:** TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE BY LAW, ALL CLAIMS MUST BE BROUGHT IN AN INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, AND NOT AS A PLAINTIFF OR CLASS MEMBER IN ANY PURPORTED CLASS, COLLECTIVE ACTION, OR REPRESENTATIVE PROCEEDING. BY ENTERING THE COMPETITION, COMPETITORS AGREE TO WAIVE THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY AND THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION.
- 26) WINNERS' LIST:** A list of Competition winners may be requested thirty (30) days after the Competition concludes by sending an email with the subject line "Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship Competition Winners" to MOSChampionship@pearson.com or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: NCS Pearson ATTN: Certiport Legal, 5601 Green Valley Drive, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55437.
- 27) DISQUALIFICATION RIGHTS:** In addition to the specific grounds for disqualification outlined in these Rules, Pearson reserves the right to disqualify any Competitor, chaperone, or attendee at its sole discretion for any conduct or circumstance deemed to compromise the integrity, safety, fairness, or proper administration of the Competition. All such decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

ALL FEDERAL, STATE, PROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.