

Notice

Thirteenth Annual

International Student Design Competition

For Safe Affordable Ferries

A project of the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association

The mission of the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (www.ferrysafety.org) is to reduce ferry fatalities and expand the use of safe ferries worldwide. The objective of the International Student Design competition is to reduce ferry fatalities with designs of safe affordable vessels.

For the past eleven years, awards of \$10,000 annually have been made to student teams, with the top prize each year being \$5000. An impressive roster of internationally recognized maritime professionals act as judges. Awardees have been recognized at international maritime conferences and through media reports. The competitions for preceding years were to design: a passenger ferry for the Bangladesh river system, an inter-island RoPax for Papua New Guinea, an inter-island RoPax for Indonesia; a passenger ferry for Bangkok; a passenger ferry for the Singapore Straits between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore; a passenger ferry for the Pasig River of Manila; a RoPax for the Winam Gulf region of Lake Victoria in Kenya; a RoPax for the Amazon River in Brazil; a RoPax for the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India; and an electric ferry for the Pasig River of Manila; a RoPax ferry for the Niger River in Nigeria, and an electric ferry for Lagos.

We return to Nigeria for a third time in a row for the 2025-26 Design Competition for a Safe Affordable Ferry. We return because ferry transport in Nigeria is complicated and promising, Please see <https://www.marinelog.com/passenger/ferries/ferry/> and <https://www.marinelog.com/passenger/ferries/a-historic-moment-for-ferry-transport-in-africa/> The ferry will be designed to carry 200 passengers and their carry-on goods between Lokoja, the growing city at the confluence of the Benue and Niger Rivers, and the market city of Onitsha on the Niger River.

Student teams that register between now and November 30, 2025, will be provided with the Terms of Reference. Design submissions are due on Tuesday December 30, 2025. For questions, kindly contact Dr. Roberta Weisbrod, executive director of the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (WFSA), at ferrysafety@gmail.com.

Please register through: <https://www.ferrysafetydesigncompetition.org/registration>

Initial registration should be by the team captain and provide captain's name, academic institution, address, phone number and email address; faculty advisor, name, address, phone number and email address, and other team members' names and email addresses. There is no limitation on the size of the team. Team members must be students. Only one team may submit their design from each school. Teams will be provided with a registration number and will receive the detailed Terms of Reference for the vessel to be designed.

The adventure continues!

Roberta Weisbrod, Ph.D.
Executive Director, WFSA