

1163-97-1014 **Shuai Jiang***, 182 Goerge St, Providence, RI 02912, and **Rebecca Santorella**, 182 George St, Providence, RI 02912. *Localizing the COMAP Competitions.*

COMAP's Mathematical Contest in Modelling (MCM/ICM) is a unique challenge for undergraduates in which a group of three are tasked with producing a short academic paper in the span of four days. The contest differs in structure from many classical math competitions in both the structure, rules, output, and grading criteria. In particular, undergraduates are required to produce an academic paper, which many of them have little to no experience with prior to the competition. We find that creating our own mini contest prior to MCM/ICM allows students to understand the expectations of the competition and receive detailed feedback on their writing and modelling approach. Teams that perform well in our local competition generally excel at MCM/ICM. (Received September 14, 2020)