

2026 ICMA Annual Conference Guide for Students

SATURDAY (October 17)

 ICMA Hub: Savi*
(student loans
information)
10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Collaboration
Zone, Hall C
**Held every day*

 ICMA Student Chapters
Meeting
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Hyatt Regency Long
Beach, Regency Ballroom
A

 ICMA Opening Party.*
7:00 - 9:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Terrace Plaza
**Ticketed Event*

SUNDAY (October 18)

 Academic Symposium
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Hyatt Regency Long
Beach, Regency Ballroom
B

 Speed Coaching
11:45 am - 1:15 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Grand Ballroom A
**Limited spots, email
coaching@icma.org.*

 First-time Attendees
Meet and Greet
12:15 - 1:00 pm
Hyatt Regency Long
Beach, Beacon Ballroom
B

 Opening General
Session
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Pacific Ballroom

 Exhibit Hall Grand
Opening Reception
3:00 - 5:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Exhibit Halls AB

MONDAY (October 19)

 Ethics Survivor - Ethics
for Students, Fellows,
and Interns
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, 201A

 Launching Localgov
Leaders - A look at Long
Beach's Management
Assistant Program
9:00 - 9:30 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, 103B

 General Session: Hope
Through History
10:00 - 11:15 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, Pacific Ballroom

 Negotiating your
Employment Agreement
2:30 - 3:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, 201A

 Avoiding Pitfalls and
Empowering Your
Career - For Early
Career Professionals
2:30 - 3:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, 103B

TUESDAY (October 20)

 A Gen Z Guide to
Building the Next
Generation of Public
Service
9:30 - 10:00 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, 103B

 General Session: Lead
with Candor
10:30 - 11:45 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, Pacific Ballroom

 Essential Skills for the
Next Generation of
Economic Developers
1:30 - 2:30 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, 104B

 Interview Lessons from
Both Sides of the Table
4:00 - 5:00 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, 103A

 ICMA Closing Party on
the Queen Mary*
7:30 - 10:00 pm
Offsite - The Queen Mary
**Ticketed Event*

WEDNESDAY (October 21)

 Building the Next
Generation - How
Associations Strengthen
the City Management
Pipeline
9:45 - 10:45 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, 201B

 Artificial Intelligence
and Workforce
Transformation
9:45 - 10:45 am
Long Beach Convention
Center, 201A

 Closing General Session:
Collective Resilience
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Long Beach Convention
Center, Pacific Ballroom

 STUDENT RELEVANT SESSION

 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION

 NETWORKING EVENT

*Ticketed Events require pre-payment and registration online

Tips for the Conference



NETWORKING

The Annual Conference is one big networking opportunity! Bring business cards and a notepad, and don't be afraid to connect with other attendees. ICMA members love to talk to students. You never know where connections could lead for you.

On Monday night (October 19), state associations and affiliate groups hold their receptions, which are great networking opportunities.



FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE LOUNGE

Need a moment to put your feet up and charge your phone? Stop by the First-time Attendee Lounge to network and meet other local government professionals. The lounge is located in the Collaboration Zone, Hall C of the Long Beach Convention Center.

There is also a **First-time Attendees Meet and Greet**, on Sunday, October 18, from 12:15 - 1:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Beacon Ballroom B.

CONFERENCE APP

Download the app to stay up-to-date on the latest information. The app allows you to create a personalized schedule, message attendees, take notes and access presentations, and get news alerts. You will be receiving information about the app from ICMA in an email shortly before conference.

EXHIBIT HALL

Stop by the Exhibit Hall to pick up swag, network, and hear about how vendors and other organizations are working with local governments!

There will be **FREE lunch** in the Exhibit Hall on Monday and Tuesday from 11:15 am - 1:00 pm.

ICMA STUDENT CHAPTERS MEETING

Connect with other students and ICMA Student Chapters at the ICMA Student Chapters Meeting on Saturday, October 17 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm.

Each chapter will have the opportunity briefly present on highlights over the past year. We plan on hosting **Student Chapter Trivia**, with each chapter eligible to play as a group. Prizes are planned for the top 3 winners! Chapters are free to network and/or participate in the trivia.

ATTIRE

The attire for the conference is business casual. Keep in mind there will be a lot of walking so be sure to bring comfortable shoes! Weather in Long Beach will likely be in the upper 70s, around 60% humidity in the day.

Speaking of attire, there is a Headshot Lounge open every day in the Collaboration Zone, Hall C. Get your complimentary professional headshot!



FAQ

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE?

Navigate to the [ICMA Conference webpage](#) and click registration. It will automatically recognize your student/student chapter member status and give you the complimentary status. If you are going through the registration process and it is giving you the full conference price, then you are not signed up as a student/student chapter member and need to do this before registering. Reach out to your student chapter president to receive the join instructions! If you continue to have issues, please reach out to David Lang at dlang@icma.org.

DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR SESSIONS?

No, unless you are interested in the sessions that require pre-registration. These sessions are primarily pre-conference events on Saturday and Sunday mornings and come at an additional cost. Other events that require registration are social and athletic because these are ticketed events. These events will not be covered by ICMA and are at the student's expense. In your registration confirmation email, there is a link to add and pay for ticketed events.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY HOTEL?

For changes to an existing reservation, or to cancel your reservation, please contact your hotel directly starting Saturday, October 3, 2026. If you still need to make a reservation, please contact the official ICMA hotels directly. The ICMA rate will be offered based upon hotel availability, so please mention that you are attending the 2026 ICMA Annual Conference to inquire if the ICMA rate is available. ICMA rates are not guaranteed.

WILL MY HOTEL HAVE SHUTTLE SERVICE?

Many conference hotels are conveniently located either adjacent to or within walking distance from the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center. Hotels not within walking will either have shuttles to and from the LBCEC or Uber vouchers will be provided. Hotels receiving shuttle service include Hilton Long Beach, Hotel Maya, Residence Inn Long Beach, and The Queen Mary.

You can learn more about booking your hotel room and the shuttle service and Uber vouchers here: <https://conference.icma.org/hotel-and-travel/>