



SciFest@College 2017

Guidelines for Teachers Submitting Paper Entries

(Teachers submitting online entries should follow this [link](#).)

SciFest@College will take place in the Institutes of Technology, DCU and St Mary’s College, Derry during March, April, May and June 2017. Dates of SciFest@College science fairs are posted [here](#) as they become available. Entry forms are available for downloading from the SciFest website [here](#).

Closing date for receipt of entries to SciFest@College 2017 is **Friday 10 March 2017** except in the case of SciFest@NorthWest in St Mary’s College where the entry date is **Friday 12 May 2017**.

Who Can Enter the SciFest?

Any student attending a second-level school may enter. Each student may enter only one project but a school may enter as many projects as they wish. A student may enter their project in only one venue but schools may submit projects to as many venues as they wish. Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Age Category:

	Junior			Intermediate		Senior	
RoI	1 st Year	2 nd Year		3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	6 th Year
NI	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14

Project Type:

Individual	Group (Max. 3 students per group – all group members must be in attendance at the exhibition)
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Project Category:

Physical Sciences	Life Sciences	Technology
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Physical Sciences

This category includes projects in physics, chemistry, mathematics, meteorology, earth science, geophysics, space science, astronomy, computer science, engineering, etc.

Life Sciences

This category includes projects in botany, agriculture, horticulture, genetics, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, food science, environmental science, psychology, sociology, etc.

Technology

This category includes projects that directly apply scientific principles to solve a problem or improve an existing solution to a problem. Relevant areas include electronics, communications, aeronautics, chemical and electrical technologies, biotechnology, sound, robotics, etc. Projects in this category should normally include a working model or prototype.

If a project is entered in the wrong category the judges reserve the right to move the entry to the correct category.


Entry Date

The closing date for receipt of entry forms is **Friday 10 MARCH 2017** except for SciFest@NorthWest in St Mary's College where the entry date is **Friday 12 May**. There is no late entry date.

NOTE:

- A student **may not enter more than one project** in SciFest@College in a given year
- A student **may not enter their project in more than one venue** in a given year
- Each project must have a separate entry form
- A student(s) whose project has been accepted for exhibition and who subsequently finds that they are unable to exhibit their project should inform the organisers of their intention to withdraw as soon as possible but, in any event, **not later than two weeks before the date of the science fair in which they entered**

How to Enter

1. Log on to www.scifest.ie.
2. Click on **SciFest@College** and then on **Entry Forms** or follow this [link](#).
3. Click on the **Venue** where you want your students to exhibit or on the Entry Form icon: 
4. Download and print off the entry form.
5. If more than one project is being entered from the school the form may be photocopied as required.
6. Note that each entry form needs the following signatures:
 - School principal
 - Teacher
 - Parent/Guardian (in a team project a signature for each member of the team is needed)
7. Please print your email address clearly on the entry forms, as confirmation of entry and subsequent communication will be by email whenever possible.
8. Please check that your students have filled out the entry forms correctly.
9. Post the entry form to the address printed on the back page of the form.
10. Remember to check the website regularly for updates.

What Your Students Need to Bring with Them on the Day of the Science Fair

1. Project Report Book
2. Visual Display

For more information go to www.scifest.ie – Resources/SciFest STEM Fairs Toolkit/SciFest@College/Project Report Book and Presentation or click on this [link](#).

NOTE:

- The size of the display boards may vary depending on the venue; information on board size, etc. will be sent out by the relevant venue before the exhibition
- Exhibitors are asked to refrain, where possible, from using brand names of firms/sponsors on their display board; reference to brands or firms should only appear in the Report Book

Judging

The judges' decision in all matters relating to the award of prizes will be final.

- The judges reserve the right to change the entry classification of a project where appropriate or to withhold awards in the event of projects not reaching a satisfactory standard.
- If a project has not adhered to all the rules and regulations of this competition, the judges have the right to withhold awards or exclude the project at any stage during the judging process.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE)

Students who exhibited at the BTYSTE 2017 but who did not receive any of the awards listed below are welcome to enter their project in SciFest 2017.

HOWEVER, SUCH STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ADDITIONAL WORK ON THEIR PROJECT BEFORE ENTERING IT IN SCIFEST.

Students awarded any of the prizes listed below in the BTYSTE in 2017 cannot enter the same project in SciFest 2017.

Main Awards	Category Winners
BT Young Scientist(s)	1 st in Category
Best Individual or Group	2 nd in Category
Runner-up Individual	3 rd in Category
Runners-up Group	

Continuation Projects and Other Science Competitions

- SciFest encourages students to enter projects which are a continuation (continuation projects) of a previous SciFest entry. These projects must document that the additional research is an expansion of prior work (e.g. testing a new variable or new line of investigation, etc.). Increasing sample size and repeating previous experimentation with exactly the same methodology and research question are examples of unacceptable continuations.
- SciFest encourages all students who exhibit at SciFest to continue to develop their projects, carry out additional research and enter other science competitions such as the Google Science Fair, the BTYSTE, the Sentinus Young Innovators and CREST.

Live Animals

Students whose projects involve studies of live animals must ensure that such studies are carried out in conformity with the statutory regulations. Copies of the regulations are available from the Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin 2. Online guidance from the Department of Health can be accessed [here](#). Guidance on acceptable practices can also be obtained [here](#) and [here](#).

Health, Safety and Ethical Issues

Before a project involving potentially dangerous, pathogenic, toxigenic or allergenic organisms (animals/insects, plants or microorganisms) is undertaken a competent expert must be consulted to advise on health and safety issues. . Where projects involve human participants appropriate permission must be obtained and their wellbeing and privacy must be ensured.

Personal Belongings

SciFest will not accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of, projects or personal belongings. Exhibitors are advised to remove valuable equipment from unattended stands. Projects are the property of the exhibitors but project content and material may be used by SciFest for exhibition or publication.

Patents

If contestants have an entry that can be used commercially and for which they seek patents they should have it registered before the science fair.

Visit: <http://www.patentoffice.ie> for more information on this.

School Visits to SciFest Science Fairs

The majority of Institutes of Technology are unable to accommodate school visits during SciFest science fairs so please check with the local organisers to avoid disappointment.

Supervision of Participating Students

Students are expected to attend talks and to participate in all activities organised for them on the day by the institute of technology.

Participating students must be accompanied by at least one teacher and supervised at all times.

Use of Photographs/Videos

By signing the entry form (page 2) a teacher grants to SciFest, or anyone authorized by SciFest, the irrevocable right to use any photograph/video taken of them while participating in SciFest. Such photographs/videos may include their name, title of project(s), prize information, name of school, etc., and may be used on the SciFest and related websites, including social media websites, and in related marketing materials, without media, time, use or geographic limitation. It is understood that SciFest is not obligated to use the photograph/video in any way. By signing the entry form a parent/guardian grants similar rights in respect of their child (see Guidelines for Entrants – Students, page 4).

Use of Project Material

SciFest retains the right to publish details of projects that have been exhibited in a SciFest science fair. This information may be used in related publications, including on the SciFest and related websites, including social media websites, and in marketing materials, without media, time, use or geographic limitation.

Safety at a SciFest Science Fair

- ❖ Live mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles or Agar plates containing micro-organisms will not be allowed into the exhibition hall.
- ❖ Exhibitors will not be permitted to have dangerous equipment, explosive or irritant chemicals, naked flames or any pathogenic, toxigenic or allergenic organism (animals/insects, plant or micro-organisms) on their stand during the exhibition.
- ❖ Exhibits must be safely designed and constructed.
- ❖ No sharp objects such as syringes or needles will be permitted in the exhibition hall.
- ❖ Exhibitors should behave responsibly and remain at their stands to speak to the judges and visitors.

**Closing Date for Receipt of Entries:
Friday 10 MARCH 2017 (12 May in St Mary's College)**

NB

Teachers should make sure they print their email address clearly on the entry forms as confirmation of entry and subsequent communication will be by email only wherever possible.