



SciFest@College – Information for Judges

Your expertise is needed

If you are a qualified scientist, engineer or mathematician who is interested in helping Ireland's next generation of scientists, become a judge for a SciFest@College STEM Fair.

What is SciFest@College?

SciFest@College is a series of local one-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fairs held in third level colleges and open to all second level students. The inaugural SciFest was held in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, Dublin, in 2006 and SciFest was launched nationwide in 2008. Nine of the Institutes of Technology hosted SciFest fairs in 2008 and in 2009 all fourteen institutes hosted a SciFest fair, reflecting the commitment of the Institutes of Technology to the support and promotion of STEM education. Also in 2009 the first SciFest exhibition in Northern Ireland was held in the Millennium Forum in Derry. In the eight years since the SciFest project was launched nationwide it has grown to include not only sixteen regional fairs hosted by third-level colleges (SciFest@College) but also local in-house school fairs (SciFest@School) and a national final. Overall, in SciFest 2016 more than 8000 students presented over 3500 projects. This was an increase of 12% in participation on the previous year. In total more than 40,000 students have participated in SciFest since it was launched in 2008.

SciFest is funded mainly by SFI, Intel Ireland and Boston Scientific. The project is also supported by a number of other partners from industry and academia. These partners include, Newstalk, SEAI, ESERO Ireland, ISTA, IOPI, BioPharmaChem Ireland, Seagate, and Sentinus. The project thus creates a valuable link between the second and third level education sectors and between education and industry.

Being a judge at SciFest is hard work, but it's well worth the effort. Your enthusiastic approach to STEM may influence some very talented young people in their choice of career. For some of the students, you may be the first professional they have ever met who works as a scientist or engineer. Part of your role as a judge at SciFest will be to be an ambassador for your profession.

Judging is on a purely voluntary basis. In 2016 the judging panels consisted of IT staff, professionals from industry and local hospitals, etc. It is an onerous task for the local organisers to source judges from outside the institute so I maintain a database of experts who are willing to give of their valuable time and expertise to act as a judge at a SciFest STEM fair. The fairs usually take place in April/May and judging lasts approximately from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guidelines, score sheets, etc. are provided.

Please note that you are not agreeing to act as a SciFest judge but are simply expressing a willingness to act as a judge if it is convenient for you at that time.

If you are interested please download and fill out the [registration form](#) and return it to Sheila Porter at sheila.porter@scifest.ie.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sheila Porter (Founder and CEO, SciFest) **Tel:** 086 379 6143

Email: sheila.porter@scifest.ie **Website:** www.scifest.ie

Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland.

Directors: B. MacCraith, P. Kirk, P. Frain, P. Ó Murchú, M. Mullaghy, P. Brabazon, R. Nolan, S. Sexton, E. Boyd

Company Registration Number: 517787 SciFest Ltd Registered Charity Number: CHY20478

Tax Ref No. 98467770