



SciFest 2012

SciFest will take place in the Institutes of Technology and the University of Ulster, Magee Campus, Derry during March, April and May 2012. Entry forms are downloadable from the website www.scifest.ie.

Guidelines for Teachers

Who Can Enter the SciFest?

All students who are attending a second-level school in the catchment area of the Institute of Technology are eligible to enter. Each student may enter only one project but a school may enter as many projects as they wish. Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Age Category:	Junior		Intermediate		Senior	
	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	6 th Year
Project Type:	Individual		Group (Max. 3 students per group – all group members must be in attendance at the exhibition)			
	Physical Sciences		Life Sciences		Technology	
Project Category:	★ Sensor-based projects - Discover Sensors Award					

Physical Sciences

This category includes projects in physics, chemistry, mathematics, meteorology, geophysics, astronomy, computer programming, etc.

Biological Sciences

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

Technology

This category includes projects that directly apply scientific principles to manufacturing and practical uses - civil, mechanical, aeronautical, chemical, electrical, sound, automotive, robotics; also, applications of technology, innovative solutions to identified problems, computing and automation, etc.

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

★ Discover Sensors Award

This award is open to projects in any area of Science or Technology where the investigation involves the substantial use of one or more **sensors** in conjunction with a **datalogger** or **computer**.

Sensors are devices which convert a physical quantity such as temperature into a signal which can be detected by a datalogger or computer with appropriate software. There are a large range and variety of sensors available. These include temperature, gas pressure, light intensity, heart rate, pH, conductivity, distance and velocity. The data collected is transmitted to the datalogger or computer. Here it is analysed and can be displayed as a table, graph or meter reading.

For more information on sensors and examples of SciFest 2010 and 2011 Discover Sensors award winners see www.discoversensors.ie

Entry Date

The closing date for receipt of entry forms is **Friday 2 MARCH 2012**. There is no late entry date.

NOTE

- A project may be entered in only **one** SciFest in any given year.
- Each entry must have a separate entry form.
- Students may enter only one project in any given year.
- **Students whose projects have been accepted for exhibition and who subsequently find that they are unable to complete their project should inform the organisers of their intention to withdraw as soon as possible.**

How to Enter

1. Log on to www.scifest.ie.
2. Click on Entry Forms.
3. Select the Institute of Technology where you want to exhibit and click on the Entry Form box.
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. Fill out the entry form.
7. Remember each entry form needs the following signatures
 - School principal
 - Teacher
 - Parent/Guardian (in a team project you need a signature for each member of the team).

8. Please print your email address clearly on the entry forms, as confirmation of subsequent communication will be by email whenever possible.
9. Please check that your students have filled out the entry forms correctly.
10. Post the entry form to the address written on the back page of the form.
11. Remember to check the website regularly for updates.

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

1. Project Report Book
2. Visual Display

For more information go to www.scifest.ie – Project Report Book and Presentation

Please note that the size of the display boards may vary depending on the Institute of Technology. Information on board size, etc. will be sent out by the relevant Institute before the exhibition.

BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYS&TE)

Students who exhibited at the BTYS&TE 2012 but who did not receive any of the awards listed below are welcome to enter their project in SciFest 2012.

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

Students awarded any of the prizes listed below in the BTYS&TE in 2011 or 2012 cannot enter the same project in SciFest 2012.

Main Awards	Category Winners
Young Scientist	1 st in Category
Runner-up Young Scientist	2 nd in Category
Best Group	3 rd in Category
Runner-up Group	

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.

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 for other science competitions as well as SciFest such as the Google Science Fair, the BTYS&TE and the Sentinus Young Innovators and CREST.
- BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition as part of their partnership with Scifest will waive entry fees to the BTYS&TE 2013 for the Intel Best Project Award winners. It should be noted that Intel Best Project Award winners do not have automatic entry and will be judged as per Rules 1.6 and 1.7
 - 1.6. Projects that have been entered in other competitions can be accepted as entries to Young Scientist, provided that this information is stated in the relevant area on the entry form.
 - 1.7. Submission of an entry will not ensure the acceptance of a project for the Exhibition. A panel of screening judges will select the projects to go forward to the RDS and their decisions are final.

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 and Children, Hawkins House, Dublin 2.

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 may be used by SciFest for exhibition or publication. If contestants have an entry that can be used commercially and for which they seek patents they are recommended to have it registered before the exhibition. Visit: www.patentsoffice.ie for more information on this.

School Visits to SciFest Exhibitions

The majority of Institutes of Technology are unable to accommodate school visits during SciFest exhibitions 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 giving consent to use of photographs/videos (see entry form page 2) a parent/guardian grants to SciFest, or anyone authorized by SciFest, the irrevocable right to use any photograph/video taken of their child while he/she is participating in SciFest. Such photographs may include the name of the

child, title of the project, prize information, name of school, etc. and may be used on the SciFest website and in related marketing materials, without media, time, use or geographic limitation. It is understood that SciFest is not obligated to use the photograph in any way.

Safety

- ❖ Agar plates containing micro-organisms will not be allowed into the exhibition hall.
- ❖ Exhibitors will not be permitted to have chemicals or naked flames on their stand during the exhibition.
- ❖ 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 visiting public.
- ❖

**Closing Date for Receipt of Entries:
Friday 2 MARCH 2011**

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