

## The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition

### Rules and Eligibility Criteria 2016/17

#### General rules

1. Entry to the competition is free and open to UK residents
2. Competitors can only enter one project in the 2016/17 Big Bang Competition, either as an individual or as part of a team.
3. Entrants must be in full-time education or training (i.e. school, homeschool, sixth form college, FE college, apprenticeship, traineeship) at the time of entry or when the project was completed.
4. Entry projects must have been carried out/completed between 1 July 2015 and 20 November 2016. Up to a maximum of twelve months of project work is eligible for judging.
5. Projects previously displayed at the finals of National Science + Engineering Competition are not eligible for resubmission unless 50% of the project is new or has been significantly progressed/developed in the last 12 months and the project is eligible within a new category (see below table).
6. Individuals can only enter projects they carried out without team support.
7. Judging and prizes will be separated into three categories according to the entrant's school year on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016:

Category	England & Wales Year Group	Northern Ireland Year Group	Scotland Year Group
Junior	7,8,9	8,9,10	P7,S1,S2
Intermediate	10,11	11,12	S3,S4
Senior	12,13	13,14	S5,S6

8. Entry is via heats at **selected** Big Bang Near Me Fairs held from 1 January to 31 October 2016 or the online heats that run from July to 20 November 2016.
9. Entry forms must be completed with **all** relevant information; incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.
10. Plagiarism is prohibited. The project entry must be the original work of the entrant(s) only.
11. By entering the competition you agree that your entry can appear on public display. The organisers of The Big Bang may use the entry online, in marketing and in press to promote the competition.
12. By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules.

13. It is the responsibility of the entrant to inform The Big Bang Competition of any change to their contact details. Failure to do so may result in the entrant not receiving notification of results or similar correspondence.
14. The judges' decisions are final and no appeals will be heard or correspondence, relating to result determination, entered into.
15. The Big Bang Competition reserves the right to revise these rules and regulations at any time. Should it be necessary to do so, The Big Bang Competition organisers will make every effort to communicate any changes to interested parties as quickly as possible.
16. There will be one winner in each category (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) and each stream, Science or Engineering.
17. Further runners-up and highly commended prizes may also be allocated with each category and stream.
18. Special and prizes may have other rules/criteria which are different to the core Big Bang Competition prizes and will only be awarded where these criteria have been met.
19. The winners will be announced at The National Awards Ceremony at The Big Bang Fair in March 2017.
20. A full list of prize winners will be published on The Big Bang Competition website and in any other publications selected by the organisers.

### **Team-specific rules**

1. Projects can be completed by teams of any size; however there is limited space at the finals, therefore, only six members of a team are allowed on the stand at any one time.
2. If a team gains a place at the finals of the The Big Bang Competition and not all team members are able to attend, then those that do attend must represent the whole team but explicitly tell the judges which area of the projects they themselves focused on.
3. Team projects must be represented by at least two members of the team if they gain a place in the finals.
4. All team members must be eligible to enter the Competition (i.e. in education or training within years 7-13 (or equivalent years in NI or Scotland)) even if all members are not able to attend the finals at The Big Bang.
5. If not all team members are able to attend The Big Bang for any reason, then it is up to the school or college to liaise with the team members and decide whether any cash or experience prizes are shared between the entire team or just those that represented the team at the finals.
6. Where teams have members spread across categories, **the entire team will be allocated based on the category appropriate to the highest year group.**

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The Big Bang Competition is split into two streams:

Science	Engineering
Projects focussed on investigation, discovery and the scientific method	Projects focussed on invention, design and manufacture
Core project subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Maths	Core project subjects: Physics, Maths, D&T or Computing
Judging focus: processes used in the project	Judging focus: outcomes of the project

### Judging Criteria

In all three sets of judging (Near Me Fairs, online entry and Competition Finals) the judges will be looking for projects that score highly against the following main criteria

1. **Project concept** - what was the motivation behind your project and what were your aims?
2. **Project process** - how well did you plan and organise your work? What sort of experiments and research did you do? Were you innovative or creative in your approach?
3. **Project outcome** - how well did your project achieve its aims? Is your final product or report of a high quality? Does your project have a 'real-world' application?
4. **Personal skills** - how well did you deal with any problems or challenges? How well do you communicate your project? Does your enthusiasm shine through?