BT

entry details 2017

your **discovery** begins here...

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY Exhibition

Driven by innovation, delivered by BT

The what

Do you want to get involved in something that you will remember for the rest of your life?

Founded in 1963 by two physics researchers from University College Dublin, Rev. Dr. Tom Burke and Dr. Tony Scott, the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition is much more than a competition; it is an unforgettable experience for all the students who take part. Today, the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition is organised by BT, one of world's leading communications companies.

The exhibition, which takes place from **11th to 14th January 2017** at the RDS in Dublin, is the final stage in the competition and is open to all second level students from Ireland, both north and south.

As well as the 550 student projects on display, there are four exhibition halls filled with exciting and innovative science and technology-based exhibits and entertainment, making it a thrilling event for those who enter and for general visitors too.

Check out the highlights...

http://btyoungscientist.com/2016-video-archive/

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2017 is supported by:

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www.btyoungscientist.com

"More than anything else, the 'Young Scientist' is a celebration of curiosity and independent thinking."

Michael D. Higgins
President of Ireland

Getting started

You're reading this, so you must have some interest in the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2017. That's a good start.

But if you're wondering why you should get involved, here are just some of the benefits:

Getting the chance to represent your school/town at the exhibition is a real buzz and an experience you will never forget.

Although a love for science and technology lies at the heart of all the entries, we're sure everyone also has an eye on the prizes! There are over 140 prizes to be won, including the prestigious BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year Award and the chance to represent Ireland at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists.

It's a brilliant extra-curricular activity to put on your CV or application form for university. It shows a real passion for science and maths and an ability to think for yourself.

The rewards aren't just confined to entrants. Teachers will also see real, long-term benefits by getting involved. It's a great way to get pupils fired up about the vital subjects of science and technology and a brilliant way to showcase your school's scientific pedigree. It also helps to inject a fun element into traditionally 'serious' subjects like science and maths.

The how

http://btyoungscientist.com/how-to-get-involved/

Who can enter?

The competition is open to second-level students from across the island of Ireland, north and south, who are aged between **12 and 19 years on 31st October 2016.**

You can enter your project as an individual or share the work as a group. A group is made up of no more than three people from the same school and the same age group, and all group members must be finalised by 28th September. To give everybody an equal chance of winning, there are three age groups in which to enter.

Please note: If a group is made up of students in different years, these students should be entered into the oldest member's group i.e. If a student in 4th year/Year 12 partners up with a student in 5th year/Year 13 this group should be entered into the Senior category.

3 AGE GROUPS

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

How to Enter

Entries must be submitted online, in either English or Irish, by **Wednesday 28th September 2016** at **www.btyoungscientist.com**

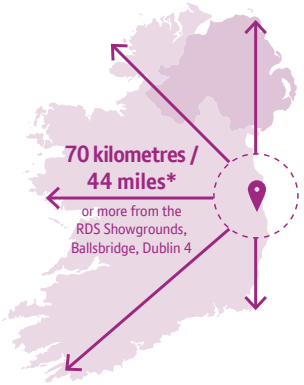
Your application must include:

- ✓ Entry Form for Projects
- ✓ Project Details Form
- ✓ One Page Proposal outlining your project
- ✓ Entry Fee (€20/£18)
- ✓ Teacher Assessment Form

The Accommodation Grant Scheme

BT provides a grant scheme under which schools can apply for assistance towards accommodation costs if they have to stay overnight in Dublin. This grant scheme underlines BT's commitment to making the exhibition accessible to schools from all parts of Ireland. A school may receive up to €1,500/£1,350 through this scheme, if it meets certain criteria. Visit the website for further information.

*as measured in accordance with the service on: **www.aaireland.ie/routes_beta/**



The category choice

Students can enter projects in one of four categories (check the website for full definitions as an incorrect choice may result in a project not being accepted):

Technology

e.g. communications, electronic systems, robotics, computing, control technology, applications of technology, biotechnology, automation.

Biological & Ecological Sciences

e.g. agriculture, anatomy, biochemistry, biotechnology, ecology, horticulture, physiology, medical science, veterinary science.

Social & Behavioural Sciences

e.g. economic, geographical, psychological or sociological studies of human behaviour, nutrition, social anthropology, political science.

Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences

e.g. chemistry, physics, mathematics, applied mathematics, geology, engineering, computer programming, meteorology, astronomy.

Where to get your idea

To help you decide on your topic, try to get an idea of what you want to study. Ideas come from all around us and the best ones are often the simplest. Is there something that really annoys you about everyday life? Have you spotted a problem that needs a solution or could you do a project related to one of your hobbies?

Perhaps there is an issue that has touched you in some way. You don't have to set out to change the world, but ideas that have a wide or far reaching impact tend to do well in the competition.

Use any contacts you have to discuss some possibilities – like your family doctor, dentist or a vet. The most important thing to do though, is to discuss your idea with your teacher and parents.

Initial research

Visit your local library or use the internet to learn everything you can about your chosen subject.

Organise

Organise everything you have learned about your topic. At this point you should narrow your hypothesis by focusing on a particular idea.

Make a timetable

Choose a topic that not only interests you, but that can also be done in the amount of time you have. And remember to leave time to write your report and put together an exhibit.

Prepare a one page proposal

When you have decided on a project, carried out some research and trial experiments, it is time to write your one page proposal. This helps you not only to organise your thoughts but also to prepare the case for your project. The proposal should be no more than 500 words.

Remember to mention any institutes or people you have contacted for information. This concise description of your thoughts about the project and of the work that you intend to carry out is essential to the screening process. A decision on whether or not a project qualifies for the exhibition in the RDS in January will be made on the basis of your initial application, so the one page proposal is very important.

What happens next?

The selection process

Your One Page Proposal is considered by a panel of screening judges who carefully consider every project. You will be told whether your project has qualified or not qualified in November 2016.

N.B. The submission of a project does not automatically mean that the project will qualify for the exhibition in the RDS in January 2017.

QUALIFIED

QUERIED

NOT QUALIFIED

Tips from the judges

The following advice and tips from our panel of judges might make your job a little easier when writing your project.

1. Start to work on your project as soon as you can. Some projects take a lot longer to complete than you thought when you started.
2. For you to succeed, you have to be interested and involved from the word 'go'.
3. Don't leave things to chance or guesswork. Research your project well. That way you'll be able to deal comfortably with any queries that come your way, whether from the judges or members of the public.
4. Keep a detailed Project Diary of your work. We all forget things and this may help you answer judging queries at a later date.
5. Accurate use of scientific methods counts for a lot when judging begins, so take your time and make sure that all your facts and figures are correct. Don't be afraid to ask your teacher if you are unsure about something.
6. The project title should accurately reflect the aims of the project.
7. Be original. Make your project stand out from the crowd by giving good solid reasons for your choice of subject.

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Did you know?

4,449 students from **396 schools** across the island of Ireland, covering **2,048** projects, competed for the coveted title 'BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year **2016**.'

Need some help with your project?

Check out our website for more information.

www.btyoungscientist.com

in association
with NovaUCD

THE BT YOUNG SCIENTIST
BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

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BT's 8th Business Bootcamp Programme for students

A number of the exhibiting intermediate and senior students from the 2017 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will be invited to take part in a BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp in March next year where they will experience the world of technology commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

We have created this programme to encourage further innovation by our young scientists and provide them with commercialisation skills to carry forward into their careers and lives. The bootcamp will be held at University College Dublin (UCD).

Expanding Business Leadership

As an extension of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition the BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp has enabled BT to take a national leadership role in economic development. BT is collaborating with key private and public-sector organisations to create an opportunity to mentor the next generation of Irish innovators and entrepreneurs.

Igniting Entrepreneurial Spirit

We at BT believe that the BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp helps to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and business and mentor the next generation of young innovators and entrepreneurs.

A short video of the Bootcamp can be watched here:
www.btyoungscientist.com/2014-video-archive

btyoungscientist.com

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Remember

Your project can make a huge difference to you, your school and even the world of science! Applications must be received by the **28th September 2016**

#imagineyourdiscovery

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BT, Grand Canal Plaza, Upper Grand Canal Street, Dublin 4, Ireland.

BT, Riverside Tower, 5 Lanyon Place, Belfast BT1 3BT, Northern Ireland.

BT has been the proud organiser and sponsor of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for 17 years. The essence of the exhibition is the spirit and ingenuity demonstrated by the students who participate. As a leader in innovation and technology, BT is delighted to cultivate and nurture the talent of our future scientists and engineers both through the exhibition itself and through the BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp about which you will read more later. We also are delighted that over 200 of our own people volunteer to visit schools to talk about the exhibition or work at the event itself in the RDS each January.