

# Guidelines for external help in science fair projects



## Introduction:

The use of external help in your BT Young Scientist project is subject to certain guidelines and expectations. While it is permissible to seek advice or information from sources beyond the school, it is essential that most of the project work be conducted by the students themselves, under the supervision of their teachers. When students engage in experimental or research work in external laboratories or facilities, it is crucial to clearly identify and acknowledge this in their project report book and presentation. A cover letter from the external facility describing the extent of assistance provided should also be included in the project report book.

## I. Conducting Project Work:

- 1. Preferred Locations:** It is expected that most of the project work will be conducted either at school, home, or in the immediate outside environment.
- 2. Visiting Distant Locations:** Certain projects may require visits to distant locations, and such circumstances should be reasonable and justifiable.

## II. Seeking Advice and Information:

- 1. Sources of External Help:** Students are allowed to seek advice or information from sources beyond their school, including the internet, government organisations, universities, institutes of technology, or subject matter experts.
- 2. Supervision and Involvement:** The primary responsibility for supervising the project work should rest with the relevant teacher, with appropriate involvement from parents, guardians, or responsible adults as needed.

## III. External Experimental/Research Work:

- 1. Identifying and Acknowledging:** If students conduct experimental or research work in an external laboratory or facility, it is crucial to clearly identify and acknowledge this in the project report book and presentation.
- 2. Cover Letter Requirement:** A cover letter from the external facility should be included in the project report book, describing the extent of assistance provided and the specific work carried out by the students or on their behalf.

## Conclusion:

External help can be sought for BT Young Scientist projects, but it should be within the established guidelines. The primary focus should be on conducting most the work under the supervision of the teacher and with suitable involvement from parents or responsible adults. When students engage in experimental or research work in external facilities, it is essential to identify and acknowledge such work in their project report book and include a cover letter from the external facility describing the assistance provided. By adhering to these guidelines, students can maintain transparency, integrity, and accountability in their project.

