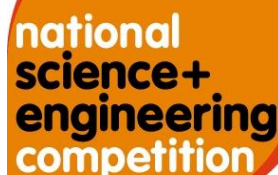


## What makes a good project for the National Science & Engineering Competition?

The logo for the National Science & Engineering Competition is a circular emblem with a red border and an orange interior. The text 'national science+ engineering competition' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'national' in white and 'science+ engineering competition' in black.

In order to be as inclusive as possible, the National Science & Engineering Competition is open to any Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) project completed by any 11-18 year old that meets the following eligibility criteria:

- They are aged 11-18 inclusive on 31 August 2011
- They live in the UK
- They are in full-time secondary level education (this includes those at prep schools or in home education)
- They completed the project they are entering between 1 July 2010 and 31 October 2011.

The projects can be on any STEM subject and can be completed as part of school coursework, in an after-school club or at home. Projects that have been completed through a recognised or accredited scheme or awards programme (eg. CREST or Go4SET) or for another STEM competition (eg. FI in Schools or Young Engineer for Britain) or they can be something that a student has done at home entirely unassisted. This is not an exhaustive list but projects can take the form of:

- A piece of original research
- An original invention
- A design for a new or improved item
- Experimentation using new techniques or existing techniques in a novel way
- Use of media to demonstrate a scientific principle or concept
- The application of a diagnostic and/or creative approach to a well-defined problem or research question
- A piece of work which explores issues surrounding science or aims to improve the engagement of others with science, technology, engineering or mathematics

It is worth remembering that the National Science & Engineering Competition is a prestigious competition to recognise the best STEM projects in the UK. Therefore, standard lesson material such as conducting pH tests on orange juice or creating basic circuits is not appropriate. The students should have had a major input into the project themselves, although a title can be set by a teacher or mentor (eg. create a product that works with your iPod or investigate the effects of a particular drug on malarial cells etc), but the student themselves will be expected to conduct the research, carry out any design, development or experiments, write up the project and understand what they have done.

To enter, please visit

[http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/nsec/the\\_competition/online\\_entry\\_form.cfm](http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/nsec/the_competition/online_entry_form.cfm)