



in collaboration with the
Malta Chamber of Scientists

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. PREAMBLE

The Contest shall be an educational project of the National Student Travel Foundation (Malta), hereinafter referred to as NSTF. It is an annual contest for students coming from educational establishments in Malta and Gozo, and who will be between 16 – 21 years of age by the end of the scholastic year.

NSTF was in 1996 nominated National Organiser for the EU Contest for Young Scientists. This resulted in the development of this Contest through which Malta's representative/s for the EU Contest for Young Scientists is chosen.

B. NAME

The Contest shall be known as the NSTF Contest for Young Scientists, hereinafter referred to as the Contest.

C. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Contest shall be to encourage students to be original and creative in conducting Scientific Research and coming up with a scientific, technological project.

D. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations that govern the Contest shall be those set out hereunder:

1. PARTICIPANTS

- 1.1 Students coming from educational establishments in Malta and Gozo and who will be 16 – 22 years of age by the end of the scholastic year, may participate in the Contest.
- 1.2 Projects may be worked upon by individuals or by teams of not more than three people.
- 1.3 All participants will exhibit their projects at the annual NSTF Science Fair. For further information on the Science Fair vide Science Fair Rules and Regulations.

2. FORMAT OF THE CONTEST

- 2.1 The Contest will take place during the Academic Year, from October to May.
- 2.2 Students participating in the Contest may choose to formulate a project in any field of science – Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Science, Engineering, Information/Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics.

- 2.3 Students must provide a written project and a project suitable for display in a public exhibition.
- 2.4 The written project will have to be handed in by an established date prior to the above mentioned Science Fair.
- 2.5 Students are to choose a mentor, who will assist them throughout their period of research and preparation of project, according to the scientific field they will be tackling.
- 2.6 Review meetings will be held once a month with the students to see the progress of their project.
- 2.7 The finalised project will be exhibited at the above mentioned Science Fair where the students will participate in a programme prepared for them.

3. PROJECTS

- 3.1 A typewritten presentation (or essay) on the projects consisting of a maximum of 10 pages (A4 format; single sided; double spaced and unbound in a minimum character size of 10 point) must be presented by an established date prior to the above mentioned Science Fair.
- 3.2 The typewritten presentation may be accompanied by original illustrations (graphs, drawings, photographs) by up to a further 10 pages.
- 3.3 A one page scientific summary containing the most important points of the project (aim, materials and methods, observations and conclusions) must be presented.
- 3.4 A straightforward description of the project of not more than ten lines should also be presented with the typewritten presentation. This may be used by NSTF for publication.
- 3.5 All typewritten material must be accompanied by a front page including the name of the Contest, project title, name and surname, school, date and must be handed in by the pre-established deadline.
- 3.6 Students will set up their project for display at the above mentioned Science Fair where a 2 x 1 m stand will be made available for their use. A meeting will take place a month before the Fair to explain to the students how to set up a stand to catch the interest of visitors.
- 3.7 Projects that involve experiments on animals (including invertebrates) shall not be accepted.
- 3.8 Experiments that involve radioactive substances, dangerous equipment, toxic and carcinogenic materials are excluded from public display.
- 3.9 Students will be expected to discuss their project to the full with any visitors at the above mentioned Science Fair and judges.
- 3.10 All equipment needed for display is the responsibility of the students.

4. ADJUDICATION

- 4.1 Projects are evaluated by a jury composed of a President and another five members.
- 4.2 The judges will be specialists in the various scientific fields. If a project lies outside of the Jury member's scientific expertise he or she may consult and seek advice from the appropriate experts of their choice.
- 4.3 The criteria for adjudication will be as follow:
 - i. originality and creativity in the identification of and the approach to the basic problem,
 - ii. skill, care and thoroughness in designing and carrying out study,
 - iii. following through of the study from conception to conclusion,
 - iv. reasoning and clarity in the interpretation of the results,
 - v. quality of written report (within the confines of the specified limits),

- vi. presentation and ability to discuss the project with the Member of the Jury.

4.4 Each project will be visited by at least three members of the jury for interviews during the above mentioned Science Fair.

4.5 The list of prize winners is announced by the President of the jury during the closing ceremony of the above mentioned Science Fair.

4.6 The decision of the Jury is final.

5. PRIZES

5.1 A maximum of three students will be entitled to participate in the EU Contest for Young Scientists depending on the adjudication of the judges. A preliminary assessment will take place by the EU Contest for Young Scientists Jury to see if the project/s is/are of a high enough level for participation in the EU Contest. These students must be 16 – 21 years of age by the start of the aforementioned contest and have not yet started University.

5.2 A further 6 students will be entitled to participate in the Expo Science Europe / National / International, depending on which one is being held that year.

5.3 NSTF shall endeavour to extend the number of prizes that may be awarded in any one year through the invitation of sponsorships or Contest partners.

NSTF - National Organisers of the EU Contest for Young Scientists



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