

THE BIG BANG COMPETITION

ONLINE JUDGING



OVERVIEW

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition recognises and rewards young people's achievements in all areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and gives them the opportunity to build their skills and confidence in project-based work. Competitors enter their projects online for the chance to win amazing prizes, including the coveted titles of UK Young Scientist(s) of the Year, UK Young Engineer(s) of the Year and UK Young Technologist(s) of the Year.

We're looking for judges to take part in a round of online judging. Judges will review and assess projects online and provide supportive feedback to help competitors build upon their achievements.

For more information about The Competition, visit [the website](#).

KEY DATES AND REQUIREMENTS

You will need to commit up to 10 hours over the online judging period, from Friday 13 March to Tuesday 24 March 2026.

- **Tuesday 3 March 2026, 4pm to 5pm:** judges attend an online briefing which will show judges how to use the online judging system, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions
- **Friday 13 March to Tuesday 24 March 2026:** judges review, score and provide feedback to allocated projects, approximately 5 to 8 projects per judge. You'll be able to manage your own time during this period to complete your score sheets and feedback.

WHY DO WE NEED YOU

As a Big Bang Competition judge, you will assess and celebrate projects in your area of STEM expertise. Competitors submit a written entry and/or a short video about their project. Judges can use these to assess against set criteria, including key skills such as communication, enthusiasm, innovation, creativity, problem solving, teamwork and leadership.

The Big Bang Team needs you to share your time and expertise to assess projects and provide vital feedback on student's work.

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN?

As a volunteer judge, you will have a unique opportunity to **inspire and motivate our young students:**



- Assess projects against set judging criteria including project concept, process, outcomes, next steps, reflections as well as personal skills
- Provide invaluable guidance to young people by giving positive and constructive feedback to help motivate competitors build on the work they have already achieved.

WHAT SKILLS AND ABILITIES ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Our volunteers play a vital role in making The Big Bang Competition a success. We are looking for scientists, engineers, technicians, and people who work or study in STEM jobs, who are enthusiastic about what they do – whether you're a graduate, career starter or professional with years of experience. We need volunteers who...

- ✓ have a STEM background
- ✓ are reliable and enjoy supporting and inspiring young people
- ✓ have the ability to provide feedback in an age-appropriate and accessible manner for young people
- ✓ are impartial and have analytical skills to assess STEM-based projects.

We're particularly looking for volunteers who come from groups that are currently underrepresented in STEM to represent the diversity of the STEM workforce. This includes women, disabled professionals, people from UK Minority Ethnic Backgrounds and those from lower socioeconomic groups. Judges can be apprentices, graduates, career starters or professionals with years of experience.

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS OPPORTUNITY?

- ✓ A **rewarding** opportunity to **make a difference** to young people – encourage creativity and innovation, as well as passion and confidence in STEM-based project work
- ✓ Play an integral role in a **prestigious competition** that recognises, rewards, and inspires the UK's young science and engineering talent
- ✓ **Build your personal development** through volunteering and volunteer training
- ✓ Develop **analytical and evaluation** skills.

IS THERE ANY TRAINING?

We provide you with training and support throughout your volunteering role, including:

- A judge's handbook
- An online judges' briefing held by EngineeringUK

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

To apply, complete the online [application form](#) by **19 February 2026**.

If you have any questions regarding the role, please contact [Natasha Sudan](#).

We look forward to your application!