



The Big Bang
UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

Big Bang Competition Finals Head Judge



Overview

[The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition](#) aims to recognise and reward young people's achievements in all areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and provide them with the opportunity to build their skills and confidence in project-based work, for students aged 11-18.

The Big Bang Competition Finals take place at The Big Bang Fair every March. At the event, finalists compete for a number of exciting prizes, including top and runner up prizes in the Junior, Intermediate & Senior categories for Science and Engineering, as well as the coveted title of GSK UK Young Scientist(s) and GSK UK Young Engineer(s) of the Year 2020.

We are looking for two Head Judges - one for the Science stream and one for the Engineering stream (detailed below) - to work closely with the Competition team at the Finals in March 2020 to support judging processes and volunteers.

The Competition is divided into two streams: Science and Engineering, of which students/teachers self-nominate to. We typically have a roughly 50:50 split of projects attending the Finals in either stream. Science projects are typically focussed on investigation, discovery and the scientific method, and cover core subject areas such as biology, chemistry, physics and maths. Engineering projects are typically focusing on invention, design and manufacture and cover core subject areas such as physics, maths, design and technology and computing.

We are looking for Head Judges to assess projects at the Finals:

- **Where:** Big Bang Fair, Birmingham NEC
- **Dates:** Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 March 2020
- **Contact:** Amelia Perry (Competition Manager) aperry@engineeringuk.com

Why do we need you?

Head Judges are relied on as a trusted and knowledgeable volunteer that hold an extremely senior volunteering role, on whom the Competition Team rely at the Finals event.

As a Big Bang Competition Head Judge, you will oversee the assessment and judging of all Competition finalists attending the Finals. The role requires the individual to share their time and expertise to support in judging briefings for volunteer judges and moderators, take an overview of all projects on the showfloor and help select the winners of the Competition through facilitation of the VIP panel sessions.

There are also opportunities for Head Judges to be involved with regional events around the country if they wish, and also sit on the Competition Working Group to help inform and improve processes surrounding the entire programme.

What activities will you be involved in?

As a Head Judge you will have a unique opportunity to **inspire, motivate and support our young students:**

- Supporting fellow judges and moderators at the Finals
 - After the Competition Team have briefed volunteers on-site, being there to offer your advice and experience of best practice judging
 - Supporting volunteers if they need extra guidance, score-sheets, project descriptions etc
- Taking an overview of all of the projects within a designated stream (science or engineering)
 - This requires the Head Judge to be out on the showfloor of the Big Bang Fair speaking with students and finding out about their projects
 - In a discussion with moderators and the Competition Team, offering perspectives on the top-scoring projects to ensure their suitability for VIP judging and make final decisions on nominated projects for VIP judging if moderators cannot come to an agreement
- Facilitating the VIP Dragons-Den panel sessions and ensuring their smooth running
 - Meeting and greeting VIP judges (past members include Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Jason Bradbury and Anne-Marie Imafidon) and answering any additional questions they may have after the initial briefing
 - Welcoming students coming in for interviews and making them feel at ease
 - Ensuring VIP judges have everything they need such as project information, suggested questions etc
 - Ensuring the timetable runs smoothly and does not overrun
- Passing winner results to the Competition Team
 - Facilitating the discussion post-judging with VIPs to ensure a winner is chosen and communicated to the Competition Team on time

What skills and abilities are we looking for?

We are looking for an individual with:

- Experience of volunteering with the Competition as either a judge or moderator at the Finals (minimum 1 year)
- A strong STEM background
- Inclusive and passionate about diversity and equal opportunities for all students
- Impartiality and analytical skills to assess a wide variety of projects
- Ability to motivate other volunteers and a team-player, open to other's opinions
- Good problem-solving skills and calm under pressure
- Positive can-do attitude

If you have any questions about these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

View our volunteering, diversity and inclusion policies [here](#).

What can you gain from this opportunity?

- Having a rewarding experience and making a difference to young people and inspiring them further in STEM
- Playing the most vital judging role in a prestigious competition that recognises and rewards the UK's young science and engineering talent
- Networking with other STEM professionals
- Invitation and appreciation at our annual Volunteer Awards event in June
- Invitation to the networking dinner at the Big Bang Fair on the Thursday of the Fair

NOTE: This is an unpaid position. Unlike other volunteer roles however, hotel accommodation at the Finals will be provided for Head Judges for 2 nights. Breakfast is included at the hotel and lunch is provided on-site on both Wednesday and Thursday. Travel expenses will also be reimbursed for travel to and from Birmingham.

Is there an induction and learning and development in advance?

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

- Introductory meeting with the Competition team at Head Office or via phone if not feasible
- Head Judge detailed **handbook**
- Interactive webinar **briefing** prior to event (60 mins, online)
- Briefing on-site at the event
- **Support and supervision** from the Competition team throughout your time volunteering with us

Who should you contact? What are the next steps?

To apply, please complete the online application form [here](#). Once applications have closed in November, a follow-up phone-call will be undertaken to find out more about you and your interest in the role. For more information about the role, please contact **Amelia Perry (Competition Manager)** on aperry@engineeringuk.com or 02032060480.

