Celebrating Science Creatively!

COBIS has partnered with the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in London to create a competitive film challenge to celebrate the diversity and excitement of science. NPL is the UK’s National Measurement Institute with a 114 year history in world class science.

What are the COBIS Young Scientist Film Awards?

Students at COBIS schools can submit up to 3 short films which describe or demonstrate science correctly in an engaging way.

- Films must be less than 2 minutes and 30 seconds
- The first 20 seconds must introduce and describe the participating school
- With school’s permission, films will be posted on a dedicated COBIS YouTube website
- A submission fee of £150.00 (inc. VAT) will apply to participating schools – this covers all 3 films
- Films must use media for which copyright permission is granted.

The competition has been running for 4 years now. During this time nearly 200 films have amassed more than 45,000 views.

Films received before Wednesday 16 March 2016, if requested, will receive a few helpful recommendations from our moderators on how to improve the film, second attempts must be received by the final submission deadline which is Friday 15 April 2016.

2016 Young Scientist Film Awards Categories

Students are encouraged to aim their films to students of a similar age and level – so students need to imagine that they are explaining their topic to a similar age group in another COBIS school. You need to make it really engaging so use good humour and be lively!

All winning entries and runners up will receive a trophy and prize. Nominations will be made by COBIS and NPL in each of the following categories.

- Best Film on Light (in celebration of 2015 being the International Year of Light)
- Best Biology (all ages)
- Best Chemistry (all ages)
- Best Physics (all ages)
- Best Scientific Theory Explanation (all ages)
- Most Creative KS 1-2
- Most Creative KS 3-5
- Best Scientific Investigation (all ages)
- Best Overall Film KS 1-2
- Best Overall Film KS3
- Best Overall Film KS 4-5
- Largest Student Engagement.

Competition Dates to Remember!

Wednesday 16 March: Deadline for submissions requesting a ‘Fast Review’ which is a short review on ‘first cut’ films with suggestions for improvement within 24 hours of upload.

Friday 15 April: Final submission deadline.

Wednesday 20 April: All entrants’ films posted to the COBIS YouTube site, along with indications of nominees.


Interested in participating?

What to do next...

- Complete the competition registration form on the COBIS website: www.cobis.org.uk/cobis_science_competition
- Review the competition rules, especially the section about copyright
- Review last year’s entries at: www.youtube.com/COBISScienceAwards
- Promote the competition in your school and identify filming facilities - useful guidance can be found at: http://scicast.org.uk/resources/film-school/
- Select and assemble student team/s. Identify student talent in film making, presentation and animation etc.
- Ensure appropriate permission is granted from parents. COBIS will not require evidence of this, however please ensure this is covered
- Students can start to scope, plan, design, cast for, practice and shoot their films – remember up to 3 films can be entered per COBIS school
- Submit completed films before or on the day of the submission deadline – no late entries will be permitted
- Wait to see if your students films have been nominated
- Winning entries and runners up for all categories will receive fantastic trophies and prizes!

1. Copyright: All material, vision and sound, must have been made by students or reproduced with the originator’s permission. The submission form will require you to state sources of all materials used in films. Some, but not all, music is copyright ‘free’ at www.ccmixter.org or www.jamendo.com or students can compose their own soundtracks. Music cannot be used from a recording or film - or even sung/hummed unless written permission is granted from the publisher of the music.

2. Films must last no more than 2 minutes 30 seconds, including credits and must describe or demonstrate an aspect of science correctly, in an entertaining and engaging way. The first 20 seconds must introduce and describe students’ work and prize. Nominations will be made by COBIS and NPL in each of the following categories.

3. Film format and submission: Shortly after registration, schools will be sent a link to a dropbox to which completed, or ‘first cut’ films can be uploaded, either in ‘mov’, ‘wmv’ or ‘mp4’ format.

4. Dangerous activities or harm to animals will not be accepted.

Ready to register for the 2016 COBIS Young Scientist Film Awards?

Complete the competition registration form at www.cobis.org.uk/COBIS_Science_Competition.