



Young ICT Explorers  
2021 Virtual Competition  
Information Pack

# General Information Pack for the Young ICT Explorers Virtual Competition

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## ABOUT YOUNG ICT EXPLORERS

Young ICT Explorers is a competition where students in Years 3 – 12 (AUS) or 3 - 13 (NZ) produce a project of their choice that uses Digital Technologies/Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to solve a real-world problem or share a passion.

Technology is constantly evolving, it's considered to be an enabler all over the world. For instance, computer games can be designed to educate people on a topic and websites are widely used to communicate and inform people all over the world. The mobile phone has evolved from being just a telephone to a multipurpose device with features like global positioning and access to the internet. The Young ICT Explorers competition aims to inspire and encourage students to consider a career in the digital technologies/ICT industry and gain a greater understanding of the possibilities available through technology.

### As a student

You are eligible to participate in Young ICT Explorers if you are of school age in **Australia** in school years **3 to 12** or **New Zealand 3 to 13** in 2021.

Just ask your teacher/parent/guardian to register yourself or your team so your team can take part. Please **register your interest by 15 August**.

While you can work by yourself, it is recommended to work in teams of up to four students, projects do require a lot of time and it's always fun working with friends! All of your team members must be in the same year division (see 'Divisions' section below). Once you are registered and you have your team set, the rest is up to you. Produce your best project related to ICT and **submit the report by the 17 September at the latest**

Remember to check the Young ICT Explorers website past winners' section for more information and ideas on projects you could enter.

### As a Teacher/Parent/Guardian.

You're invited to register groups of **up to four students per project team** to participate in Young ICT Explorers. **The registration deadline is 15 August**. All of the team members must be in the same year division (see 'Divisions' section below). You can enter multiple teams from your school into the competition. All teams must submit **their report by 17 September at the latest**.

Please don't hesitate to send us an email to: [info@youngictexplorers.net.au](mailto:info@youngictexplorers.net.au) if you have further questions.

### Divisions

Students can compete individually or in project teams of up to four students in the following school year divisions:

- Year 3 - 4
- Year 5 - 6
- Year 7 - 8
- Year 9 -10
- Year 11 -12 (AUS)
- Year 11 - 13 (NZ)



## Locations – Australia and New Zealand

Our 2021 Virtual Competition will still hold region specific competitions in the following locations.

- New South Wales
- South East Queensland
- Victoria
- Western Australia
- Australian Capital Territory
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- North Queensland + Northern Territory
- New Zealand

## Subject areas

We have purposely kept the scope of the competition broad to encourage as much creativity as possible through the use of technology. We don't want to limit possibilities and welcome all types of projects providing they have a clear link to Digital Technology/ICT.

To give you some guidance, projects might come under some of the following subject areas:

- Science
- Engineering
- The Environment and Sustainability
- Business
- Design
- Entertainment

Need more ideas? See some of last year's project on our website [www.youngictexplorers.net.au](http://www.youngictexplorers.net.au)

## Sample project topics

Projects in previous competitions have included some of the following topics:

- iPhone/mobile phone applications
- Computer games
- Websites
- Digital media
- Short films and animations
- Robots
- Arduino/Raspberry Pi Maker projects

## Awards

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division. Previous year's prizes have been

- 1st prize – \$150 Voucher for each team member\*
- 2nd prize – \$100 Voucher for each team member\*
- 3rd prize - \$50 Voucher for each team member\*

*\*(prizes are subject to change)*



## Registration process

We've established a new registration process for 2021.

1. As a teacher/parent/guardian from **February 2021** you can register your school/independent team entry and an approximate number of teams participating using **our online registration tool**. Please note the **last day for registration is 15 August**.
2. Once you're registered, you can then nominate the teams and upload their project details and any attachments by **17 September at the latest**. Please submit a ZIP file including the following items:

- Project report. This is a detailed description of the project.  
It is recommended to use the report template or structure outlined on pages 6 – 7.
- Media Release and Permission Form for each participating student.

You can find these documents on our website in the download section. Please enter the requested details, scan the documents and add the scans to the ZIP file.

- Add all additional files and details regarding your project to the ZIP file as well.

If you need help to generate a PDF or a ZIP file, please have a look at the download page of the Young ICT Explorers website or contact us for more assistance.

## Conditions of Entry

Entry to the competition is free. To enter the competition, we require students to:

- Be of school age in Australia and New Zealand.
- Enter in the appropriate school year division.
- Ensure Schools (or independent teams) are registered on or before **15 August** (registration deadline) on our website <http://www.youngictexplorers.net.au>
- The YICTE team will contact registered parties to arrange times for project reviews or confirm video entries.
- Students must have their teacher/parent/guardian submit their project report, which is clearly linked to Digital Technologies/ICT. Projects without a clearly demonstrable link will be ineligible to enter and these entrants will be notified.
- Submit a project report, we recommend [the template](#) on our website or use the structure on pages 6 - 7, with the report being no more than 15 pages long and not greater than 10MB in size. Entries with missing reports or reports that exceed these criteria will not be accepted.
- Reports must be submitted by **17 July at the latest**. Submissions will not be accepted after the final date. Early submissions are appreciated for processing purposes.
- If you are submitting a video for judging review it must be included in your report submission.
- Students must present their own work. Use of materials not produced by the team or individual responsible for the entry which is not duly acknowledged through standard referencing, will be deemed as plagiarism. Any entry deemed guilty of plagiarism will be disqualified and will be ineligible for judging and prizes.
- Enter in groups consisting of 1 to 4 students. Teams with more than 4 students may not be accepted.
- Submit uncorrupted files. Young ICT Explorers cannot judge or take responsibility for files that are incomplete or corrupted. **Projects must only have material that is suitable for all**



**ages, inappropriate or offensive projects will not be accepted.** The decision of the judges is final.

- Participants will be required to enter a video for submission or take part in a virtual judging round. In the event a project team consists of only one team member and he/she is unable to attend the judging event, a class mate can present on his/her behalf.

## Submission Guidelines

- Entries should be uploaded to the competition website before midnight the day submissions close.
- Acceptable file types for upload include: mp3, mpg, avi, jpg, mov, swf, flv, mp4, html, doc, docx, pdf, ppt, pptx, xls, xlsx, iWork & iLife file formats.
- We accept links to video submissions from reputable streaming services.
- Due to the possibility of viruses, **unacceptable file types are:** exe, bat, com, msi.
- If you wish to submit another file type, please contact the Young ICT Explorers Organising Team on [info@youngictexplorers.net.au](mailto:info@youngictexplorers.net.au) to ensure that it can be assessed.
- The ZIP file containing the project and report files cannot exceed 10 MB respectively.
- **Projects must only consist of material that is suitable for all ages.**

Students also have the option of submitting a video or screen-cam (in one of the file types specified above).

Students who are unable to upload their actual project will not be penalized during the short-listing process if it is clearly presented in the report.

The main report must be submitted via a

- Portable Document File (pdf)
- Microsoft Word (doc/docx)

## Report Templates

We have a report template available ([link from here](#)) or from the information section on the website.

Use these templates as a guide and complete as much as you can, we do understand some projects are still under construction at time of submission. We really want to see an outline of what the project is and what technologies you have used to create it.

## Report Structure

Please note that this is only a recommendation and adherence is not compulsory:

- Title page
  - Your Name/ name of your group members.
  - Name of your project.
  - School name.
  - Event Location.
- Abstract
  - What is your project?
  - How did you choose your project?
  - Problems you encountered.
- Introduction
  - What inspired the idea for your project?
- Video Submission/Photos



- Please enter the link to your video or include any pictures of your project.
- Problem Statement
  - Explain the problem you are trying to solve with your project?
  - Design and Features
  - Challenges Designing and Building this Project.
  - What would you do differently the next time?
- Conclusion
  - Does your project do what you set out to achieve?
- Technologies used
  - List the programs and technologies used.

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## Judging Criteria

Each entry will be judged per the following marking criteria:

1. **Creativity and Innovation** – How unique and imaginative is your idea?
  - Is it new and innovative? Analyze the situation, identify a need, propose and develop a solution for the defined need.
  - Develop a brief that identifies simple criteria relating to requirements that make it useful and attractive.
  - Consider labeled drawings, modeling, storyboarding, using digital technologies and multimedia for presentations.
2. **Quality and Completeness** – how well does the project do what it is proposed to do?
  - Justify and apply methodical approaches to planning, designing or implementing solutions.
  - Demonstrate competency in a range of practical skills appropriate to the project.
  - Apply and explain an understanding of the nature and function of Digital Technologies/ICT in your project.
  - Are objectives in the project met and functions as a working product?
3. **Level of Difficulty** – how difficult is your work?
  - For example, materials, tools, software and equipment used in conducting investigations.
  - Develop and apply a plan and sequence for production taking into account, time, resources and correct techniques.
  - Implementation of a working product.
4. **Documentation** – how much effort you have put into your report, posters and your presentation?
  - Investigate questions and predictions by collecting and analyzing data, suggest explanations for findings and reflect on the processes undertaken.
  - Use methods to thoroughly document the development of the project.
  - Use creative thinking techniques including brainstorming, sketching and modelling.

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### Projects entered encourage students:

- to learn communication and information processing skills
- to explore ways in which information systems will meet emerging needs
- to select and apply appropriate research and problem-solving skills.
- develop ways to apply and explain an understanding of the nature and function of information technologies to the specific practical situation.



- Develop ways to examine and apply appropriate documentation techniques related to the management of their project.

## 2021 Dates and Deadlines

**Registrations open: February** - Schools register their interest in the competition for the year and create an account in the conference system to submit report outlines

**Registrations close: 15 August** - Last day to sign up for the competition.

**Report outline due: 17 September** - Report outlines are due here, this doesn't have to be the final version of their creation, we just want to see what the project is about, have an understanding what technologies are used, and what problem is being worked on. Students have right up until they present to the judges' panels to keep working on the project.

**Reviews dates: September – November**

- Senior Years 7-12: 1 September – 15 October
- Junior Years 3 – 6: 4 October – 25 November

Each team will have 10 minutes with our judging panel, students have 5 mins to pitch/present/demonstrate their project, then judges have 5 minutes to ask further questions about the idea and positive feedback. All teams will receive written feedback and certificates of achievement/participation. If submitting a video, it is to be a maximum of 8 minutes in length.

## Virtual State/Territory Judging Rounds

S/E Qld - NT + NQ - NSW - WA - VIC - ACT - TAS - SA - NZ

This year we are hosting all events virtually, teams have the option of a Zoom call presentation to our judges or by submitting a video presentation for review.

### Zoom review

The YICTE team will be in touch with each registered school/organisation to book in times for Zoom reviews before the final submission deadline.

### Video submissions

We suggest that the team pitch their idea to a teacher/parent to fill in for the judges and they ask any follow up questions. Please provide any project documentation you want the judges to see in the submission.

The video submission is due before or on 30 September. Unless other arrangements have been made, those submitting videos must upload to the following URL

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/VGZ239Y25P5lqp5yOvHI> by 30 September.

Please use the following naming convention when saving your videos:

Teacher or Parent Name\_Submission No\_Category\_Project Name

For example: Ven Turner\_345\_3-4\_saving endangered species





Here are some example questions judges ask:

- What Technologies did you use?
- What problems occurred during development and how did you resolve them?
- Did you create the project in class time and how long did it take you to create?
- What was the inspiration for your idea?
- Any future plans for this project?

Please make sure the student's video is no longer than 8 minutes. Allowing judges time to look at any documentation.

Please provide any supporting documents and the video submission by 4<sup>th</sup> September.

A Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held at the end of all our judging reviews, certificates and prizes will be awarded and sent to the winners.

## **National Final**

We will have more information available on our National Finals in July, we hope to hold this as an in person event.

