

REGULATIONS Competition



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Article 1 Background

1. The Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCT NOVA) is promoting the competition “**FCT NOVA Challenge**” for young students of the Scientific-Humanistic Course of Sciences and Technologies in Secondary Education, which has the aim of promoting interest in scientific knowledge and promoting interaction between young people and researchers, as well as stimulating the appearance of talents in the area of Sciences, Technologies and Engineering. The intention is to foster a healthy competitive spirit among young people working in a team as well as their creativity in carrying out innovative projects/scientific works.
2. Project is understood here as the theoretical design of a prototype, or its construction, the practical resolution or proposed resolution of an Engineering problem; scientific work is understood here as an essay on a hypothesis to solve a concrete scientific problem, the carrying out of an experiment or the creation of an innovative methodology which can potentially contribute to the advance in Science.
3. The Directorate-General for Education recognizes the importance of this competition in the teaching of sciences and technologies at the secondary level of education, and considers that this may constitute a valuable contribution to promoting interest and learning in these areas of knowledge.

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Article 2

Target audience

The competition is national in scope and, in this edition, is open to all students of the Scientific-Humanistic Sciences and Technologies Course of Secondary Education, in the 12th year of schooling, for public and private education.

Article 3

How to participate

1. Projects are admitted to the competition carried out by groups of students on themes which form part of any of the pure and experimental Sciences, particularly Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, or these areas applied to Engineering, particularly Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Materials Sciences and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Physics Engineering, Geological Engineering, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Electrical Engineering and Industrial Engineering and Management.
2. Works carried out by groups made up of three to five students from the same school will be admitted to the competition. These must be supervised by up to two teachers (the Coordinator and, if present, the co-supervisor), all belonging to the same School.
3. Each teacher may coordinate/supervise more than one group, up to a maximum of three, but each student may only belong to one group.

Article 4

Organization of the competition

1. The Competition “FCT NOVA Challenge” takes place in three stages:

FIRST STAGE: Each group should show interest in participating through the “FCT NOVA Challenge” platform set up for this purpose, at www.novachallenge.fct.unl.pt, and should fill in the following fields:

- a) Identification of the students belonging to the group;
- b) Identification of the teacher(s) who will supervise the group, should there be two teachers, one must be identified as the Coordinator: this will be the contact link with FCT NOVA;
- c) Identification of the school to which the group belongs;
- d) Indication of the scientific area(s), up to three, which are covered by the implemented project, which can be changed during the final presentation of the project/scientific work in the second stage.

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SECOND STAGE: After its conclusion, within the periods laid down in these regulations, the project/scientific works developed by the group are submitted to the same platform and should contain:

- a) Title of the project/scientific work;
- b) Object of the presented work (150 words maximum);
- c) Project/scientific work summary specifying its most important points, in a total of 500 words;
- d) Description of the innovation/originality of the project/scientific work (maximum 150 words);
- e) Feasibility/Impact of the presented work (150 words maximum);
- f) Description of the project in video with a maximum length of six minutes and recorded in MPEG4 format.

THIRD STAGE: After evaluating the works, in the format laid down in Article 5 of these Regulations, there will be a final public session held at FCT NOVA, involving all the groups which have completed the second stage. In this session, the ranking of the candidate groups and the prize-winning groups will be disclosed. The 12 finalists will be invited to orally present their works, and this presentation may include prototypes. The presentation session will be open to competing students and teachers, and their guests, including parents and guardians, as well as senior staff of the Schools involved.

2. Every year an addendum to this notice is published specifying the competition calendar.
3. From the third edition onwards, the competition calendar will be disseminated on the website www.novachallenge.fct.unl.pt at the start of each academic year.
4. For further clarification, consult the list of "Frequently asked questions" (FAQs), which is available on the competition platform.

Article 5 Evaluation

1. The evaluation of the works admitted to the competition will be carried out by a jury chaired by the Dean of FCT NOVA and made up of a fixed panel and by an external panel.
2. The fixed panel of the jury will be made up of professors and researchers of recognized merit in the different areas of Sciences, Technologies and Engineering at FCT NOVA.
3. The external panel of the jury will be made up of teachers in the areas of teaching of the Scientific-Humanistic Course of Sciences and Technologies of Secondary Education Schools/School Clusters and other personalities, invited by the Dean of FCT NOVA.
4. The selection of the winning entries is made by the external panel of the jury.

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5. The entries will be evaluated according to the following parameters:
 - i) Creativity/Originality/Innovation;
 - ii) Feasibility/Scientific and social impact of the work;
 - iii) Rigour/Clarity of exposition/presentation of the project.
6. The jury may decide not to award the prizes if it understands that the works submitted do not reach an appropriate level of quality.
7. The jury's decisions are final, and there is no possibility of appealing the jury's decisions.

Article 6 **Prizes**

1. Prizes will be awarded to the winning groups up to the third classified.
2. Non-pecuniary honourable mentions will also be awarded to works which show a high level of creativity and innovation, and certificates of participation shall be awarded to all entrants.
3. Annually, the calendar for each edition of the "FCT NOVA Challenge" competition will announce the list of prizes to be awarded.

Article 7 **Final Provisions**

1. All contacts with the organizing institution must be carried out through the competition platform.
2. Participation in the competition presupposes, on the part of students and teachers, authorization to collect images (photographs and film) during the session awarding prizes, as well as the use of videos of the works for institutional dissemination purposes undertaken by FCT NOVA.
3. Omissions, as well as clarification of any doubts for the interpretation of these regulations will be analysed by the FCT NOVA Management and, with regard to questions related to evaluations, by the fixed panel of the "FCT NOVA Challenge" competition jury.

Approved.
The Dean of FCT NOVA
Prof. Doutor Fernando Santana

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Addendum to the REGULATIONS Competition



Calendar for the 2016-17 edition of the competition (2nd edition) Prizes to be awarded

Calendar:

FIRST STAGE

Expressions of interest to participate: 23 January to 24 February 2017

SECOND STAGE

Online submission of works: 2 March to 24 April 2017

THIRD STAGE

Evaluation of works: 24 April to 8 May 2017

Communication of results: 12 May 2017

Prizes:

- First Prize: € 5 000 and trip, covering travel and accommodation expenses, to an international institution of reference in the area of Engineering, Sciences and Technology (to be disseminated before the end of the second stage of the competition)
- Second Prize: € 5 000
- Third Prize: 2 500 €

The trip provided for in the first prize will take place in the second half of July, on a date to be agreed with the winning group.

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