FAQs

Creating and submitting the video:

What device do I need to film my video on?
There are no restrictions on what device you can create your video on. You can use your phone, tablet, laptop, or any other filming device. It doesn't need to be of professional standard, we are judging you on its content, creativity and clarity. Please film the video in landscape.

Is there a minimum and maximum duration of the video?
We recommend that the video is around 3 minutes long. The judges will not watch any content after 3 minutes and 30 seconds so please ensure it is not longer than this.

Is there a maximum size limit of the video?
WeTransfer allows a maximum file size of up to 2GB. It is unlikely a 3-minute video will go over this limit.

Who can create and edit my video?
Only direct team members shall be involved in the creation and editing of the video, however there are no restrictions placed on what filming or editing device/software to utilise.

How do I send you, my video?
We are using WeTransfer for you to send us your videos. We are not accepting any other ways of transfer.

WeTransfer is a website: https://wetransfer.com and is a free service to transfer files up to 2GB.

When the teacher uploads the file they need to enter their email address and then send the file to: competition@physicspartners.com. Please remember to include the School/College name in the message section when sending the video.

Competition Submission:

What are the requirements to enter the competition?
One team entry per School/College up to a maximum of 3 students. The team should submit a video no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds. The teacher will submit the video, application form and consent form. No entries will be accepted after the competition entry deadline.

Can I enter as an individual?
Yes, a student can enter as an individual or in teams of up to three students. Only one competition entry can be made per School/College and the teacher needs to submit the competition entry.

I can't upload my video using WeTransfer?
If you are having issues uploading and sending your video, please email us at competition@physicspartners.com. You are encouraged to submit ahead of the deadline in case of any technical issues.

What if I miss the deadline?
Under special circumstances we may be able to provide an extension. Please email competition@physicspartners.com.

Why is the competition open to schools in England only?
Physics Partners currently works primarily in England. The Big Bang Competition is a similar competition and is UK wide.

Competition Timescales:

When is the closing date for submitting competition applications?
You have until 24 February 2026 (11:59pm) to submit your competition application including video, application form, student and parental consent form.

When will I know if I have been shortlisted as a finalist?
If you have been shortlisted to one of the top 10 finalists, then the teacher who entered the team will be notified by 3 March 2026 by email.

When and where is the shortlisted finalist event and how do I confirm attendance?
The top 10 teams will be invited to the Prize Event on 1 and 2 April 2026, hosted at King's College (Cambridge University). You must confirm your School's/College's attendance before 9 March 2026 via email.

If I win the Grand Prize, by when do I need to accept the prize to visit CERN?
The winning Team must confirm their acceptance of the Grand Prize before 17 April 2026.

Competition Judging:

Who is on the judging panel?
The applications will be reviewed by a panel of Physics Partners Coaches and two of our trustees, Emma Smart and Dr. Kathryn O'Donnell. The trustees will be joined by leading Oxford and Cambridge academics for the Grand Prize panel at King's College, Cambridge.

What are the panel judging the video on?
The submitted videos will be scored on three criteria: Content, Creativity and Clarity.

The physics teaching provision and demographic of the school/college may be taken into consideration by the judging panel, as appropriate and at their discretion.

The judging panel's decision is final.

Prizes:

What prizes are available to the finalist teams?
For the 10 finalist teams each team will share £600 of Amazon Vouchers. For individual entries this will be £400 of vouchers

The school physics department will win £500 worth of physics equipment.

Each finalist team will be invited to King's College at Cambridge University for the Prize Event. This will include a panel Q&A, and a programme of activities for the attendees.

If the shortlisted team/school are unable to attend the King's College event, then the prize is forfeited.

The winner of the Grand Prize will win funding for the school/college to organise a visit to CERN.

If the winner of the Grand Prize is unable to commit to taking the team to CERN then the prize is forfeited and will be offered to the runner up.

Who can I bring to the Prize Event?
If teams are less than 3 than you can bring along a friend/s, to provide moral support, and the option to contribute to the Q&A. They must make the numbers up to a maximum of 3, and they must be studying at least one STEM subject. They will not count as Team members.

Other:

Can I include entering, being shortlisted or winning this competition on my UCAS application?
Yes. This is a great example of super curricular activity that Universities would love to hear about.

Why can only state schools enter?
Physics Partners is a charity and so funding is focused on supporting state schools.

Can I apply directly?
No. A teacher will need to submit the application on behalf of the individual / team. Parental consent is required to enter, and if the team are shortlisted for the final event at King's College and the winning team trip to CERN.