Approval Made Simple

Navigating SRC Approval

Student information session for the 2027 Synopsys Championship

What you'll learn

1 **Pre-approval**

Which projects need permission before research starts, and when applications are due.

2 **Application forms**

Which forms students need and how they submit them.

3 **Project status**

How to tell whether payment went through, review is pending, or the project is approved.

What gets reviewed?

The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) checks the plan and forms for safety, ethics and fair rules.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews studies involving human participants.

Pre-approval is permission to begin. When it’s required, wait before piloting, recruiting participants, or collecting data.

Final application deadlines

11:59 p.m. on both dates

Upload your application and required forms to your Forms Folder. Use Pay and Submit on your Project Page to pay the fee.

If your application and forms are uploaded and your processing fee is paid by the deadline, you’re on time. **SRC review and approval continue after each deadline.**

Nov 13, 2026

Returning students and anyone whose project needs pre-approval.

Jan 8, 2027

First-time entrants whose projects don’t need pre-approval.

When you can start

If pre-approval is required, wait for clearance before you begin.

When do I need pre-approval?

1. **Human participants**

   Examples include surveys, interviews, and asking other people to test an app.

2. **Animals & biology**

   Examples include work with vertebrate animals, microbes, tissue, or body fluids.

3. **Chemicals & hazards**

   Projects using chemicals or involving hazardous activities or devices need SRC pre-approval.

Prior research

Projects that continue earlier research also need pre-approval.

Review your methods with your Adult Sponsor. Ask the SRC if you're unsure.

Fair pre-approval guide

Use the fair's SRC pre-approval flowchart to check whether your project needs approval before you start.

Returning students

If you’ve entered the Synopsys Championship or another fair affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), submit by November 13, 2026.

Upload Form 7, your previous research plan, and your previous abstract if you had one.

On Form 1A, item 7, check Yes only if your current project needs SRC pre-approval. Otherwise, check No and still submit by November 13.

Form 1A for November 13 applicants

7 **SRC Pre-Approval**

Check Yes only if your current project needs pre-approval. Otherwise, check No.

8 **Actual Start Date**

Enter “Upon SRC Approval” and wait for approval before starting experiments.

9 **Continuation**

Check Yes only if you and your Adult Sponsor agree the project continues earlier research.

Start and end dates

Leave Tentative Start Date blank. The approval date is still unknown when you apply.

Always enter an End Date. Aim to finish before abstracts are due February 20, 2027 at 8 p.m. Pacific.

When to check Yes on item 7

Check Yes for projects that involve risks or hazards, use chemicals, involve human participants or vertebrate animals, or continue previous research.

How continuation is recorded

1 **Form 1A, item 9**

Check Yes only if you and your Adult Sponsor agree the project continues earlier research.

2 **Form 1A, 9a and 9b**

Leave both boxes unchecked unless the project is a true continuation.

3 **Adult Sponsor Form 1**

In Section 5, check Continuation only if you and your Adult Sponsor agree the project continues earlier research.

Example: A new topic

For an unrelated project, answer No to item 9 on Form 1A. Leave items 9a and 9b and Form 1's Continuation box unchecked.
The returning student still submits by November 13, 2026, with Form 7, their previous research plan, and their previous abstract if they had one.

Final decision

The student and Adult Sponsor make the initial check. The SRC makes the final decision about continuation.

What goes in the Forms Folder?

The Forms Folder is the private upload folder linked from your Project Page.

1 Application PDF

Download your bar-coded PDF from the Project Page.

2 Core forms

The Required Forms page lists the seven core forms and links to the research plan templates.

3 Additional forms

The Additional Forms page explains which forms apply to different projects.

For team projects

A team submits one Form 1 and one Form 1A. The team leader completes Form 1A.

Each member signs the four student forms. The team leader uploads everyone’s signed copies.

Seven core forms

Each project needs an Adult Sponsor Checklist (Form 1), a Student Checklist (Form 1A), and a research plan.

Each student needs the Approval Form (1B), Permission and Hold Harmless Agreement, Media Release, and Ethics Statement.

Before experimentation, sign and date Form 1, Form 1B, the Permission form, and Form 3 when required.

Research plan templates

Every project must use a SCVSEFA research plan template.

Science

Use the Science Research Plan for experiments.

Engineering

Use the Engineering Research Plan for a design or prototype.

Product testing

Use the Product Testing Plan to compare existing products.

If your project involves people, also include the fair’s Human-Participants Research Plan.

In your plan, explain what you’ll test, how you’ll do it safely, and how you’ll analyze the data.

Additional forms

- Projects that use chemicals or involve hazardous activities or devices need Form 3 (Risk Assessment).
- For research involving people, check Form 4, the Human-Participants Research Plan, and the consent requirements.
- For projects involving animals, microbes, or tissue, ask your sponsor and the SRC whether Forms 5B, 6A, or 6B apply.
- All projects complete Form 2A (Student Support Disclosure) after experimentation.

If you run out of space in any section of a form, **use an Addendum** to provide the additional information.

Before you register

1 Adult Sponsor

An Adult Sponsor is usually a teacher at your school. Ask them to agree before you list them.

2 Project details

The form asks for a project title and category.

3 Contact details

The application asks for student, parent or guardian, and sponsor details.

Registration timing

Online registration is completed in one sitting. A laptop or desktop makes the PDF steps easier.

For team projects, the form asks for contact details for every student.

Completing your forms

Complete and upload forms digitally whenever possible. Limit handwriting to signatures, dates, and minor corrections.

Forms and registration links

Application Instructions

On science-fair.org, Quick Links leads to the Application Instructions page shown here.

Forms and templates

Step 3 lists the required forms, additional forms and the fair's research plan templates.

Registration link

The online registration link is under Step 1. The registration form is completed in one sitting.



Application Instructions

Individual and team registration

Registration options

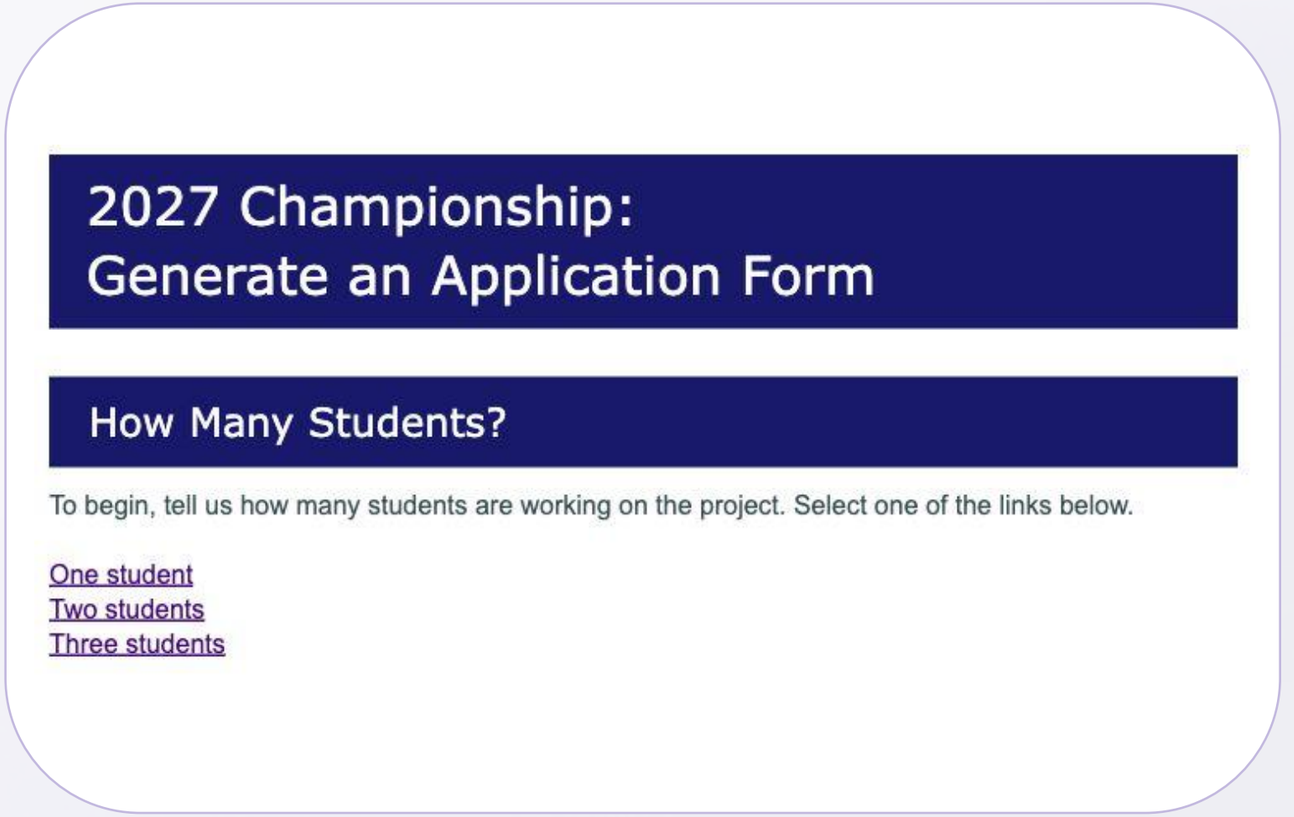
The fair’s registration page has separate forms for projects with one, two, or three students.

Who registers a team

The team leader completes one registration for the project, using each student’s and parent or guardian’s information.

What the form shows

The next screen identifies the project as individual or team so the student can verify the selection.



Registration options

What the first Submit does

Information the form collects

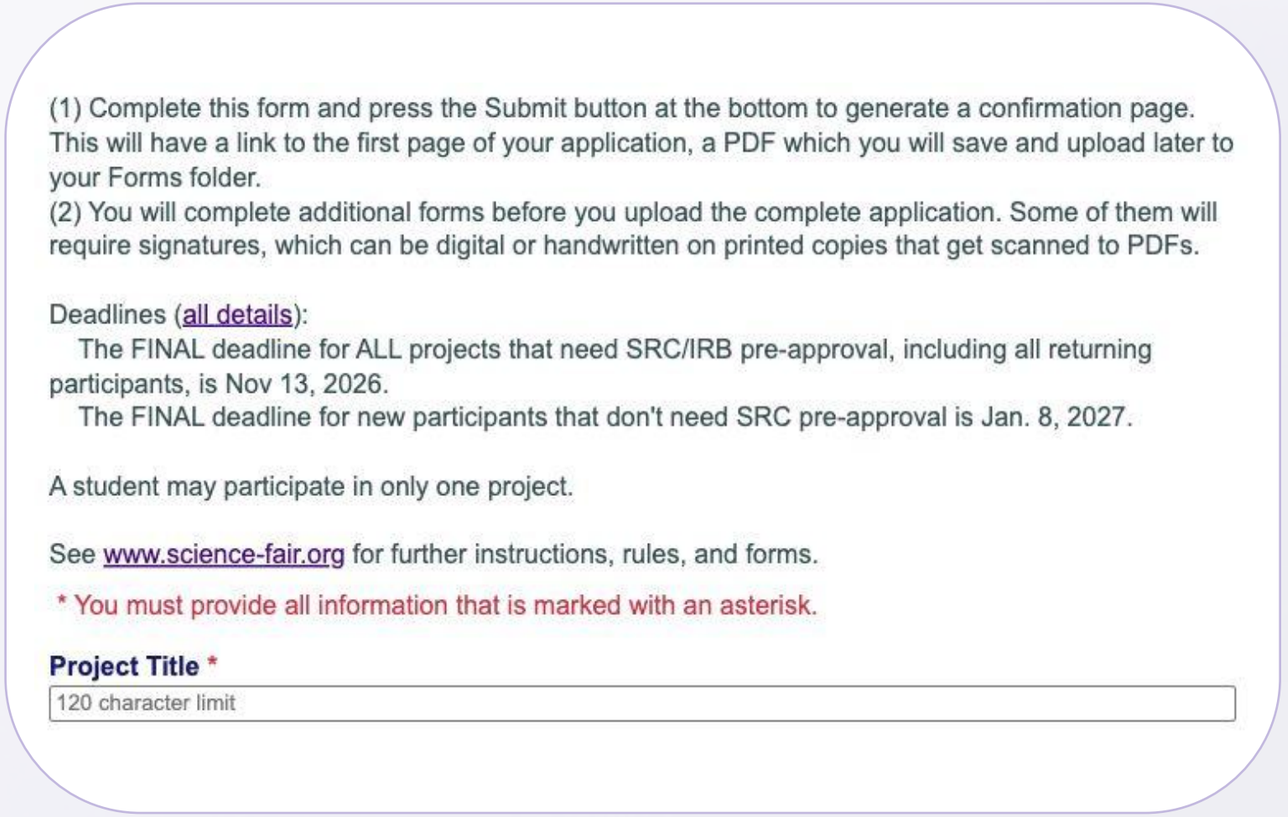
The form asks for project details and student, parent or guardian, and Adult Sponsor contact information.

Confirmation page

Submitting this first form generates a confirmation page with a link to the student’s private Project Page.

When the application is submitted

After uploading the required forms, students use Pay and Submit on the Project Page to send the completed application.



(1) Complete this form and press the Submit button at the bottom to generate a confirmation page. This will have a link to the first page of your application, a PDF which you will save and upload later to your Forms folder.
(2) You will complete additional forms before you upload the complete application. Some of them will require signatures, which can be digital or handwritten on printed copies that get scanned to PDFs.

Deadlines (all details):
The FINAL deadline for ALL projects that need SRC/IRB pre-approval, including all returning participants, is Nov 13, 2026.
The FINAL deadline for new participants that don't need SRC pre-approval is Jan. 8, 2027.

A student may participate in only one project.

See www.science-fair.org for further instructions, rules, and forms.

* You must provide all information that is marked with an asterisk.

Project Title *

120 character limit

Blank individual application

What registration generates

1 **Project Page**

You'll return to this private page to finish and submit your application.

2 **Application PDF**

The Project Page shows your Project Code (e.g. A10) and links to the bar-coded PDF you'll upload.

3 **Forms Folder**

The Project Page links to the folder where completed PDFs are uploaded.

Keep the Project Page and Forms Folder links private. Share them only with your project teammates.

Forms upload and payment

Where the PDFs go

Students upload actual PDFs through the Forms Folder link on the Project Page. File names include the Project Code, as in A12-Plan.pdf.

What the folder should contain

Before paying, refresh the folder and check for the bar-coded application PDF and all required forms, with signatures where needed.

How the fee is submitted

Pay and Submit is on the Project Page. The processing fee is $40 for an individual project or $50 for a team.



Fair instructions for uploads and payment

What can delay SRC review?

Before experimentation, sign and date Form 1, Form 1B, the Permission form, and Form 3 when required.

Upload the PDF files themselves and put your Project Code in each file name. Do not upload files from Google Docs or Notes, or use Shortcuts. Only PDF files are accepted.

If you began research before required pre-approval, pause and tell the fair’s Scientific Review Committee the actual dates.

What Project Status tells you

Where projects are listed

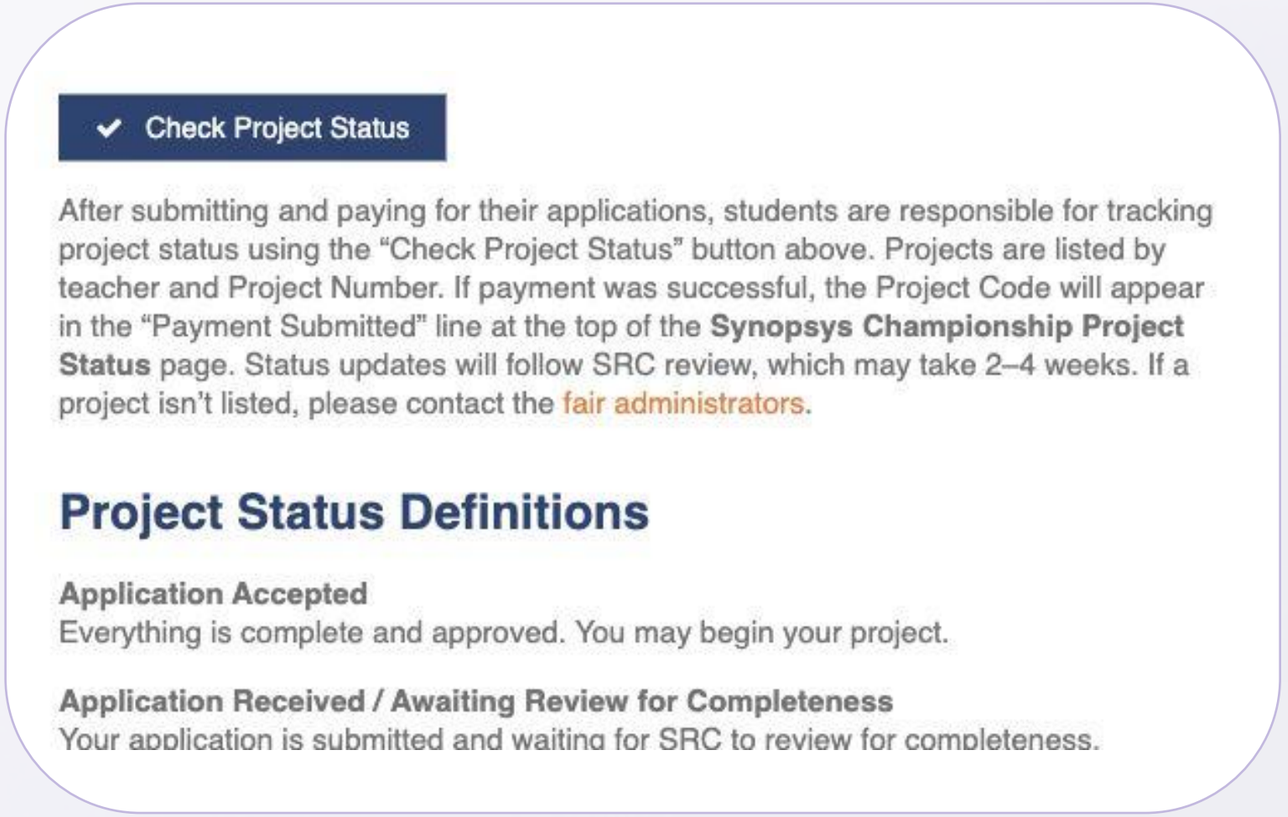
The fair’s home page links to Check Project Status. Projects are listed by teacher name and Project Number.

What confirms payment

The Project Code appears on the Payment Submitted line once payment goes through. The project may still be in review.

What confirms approval

Application Accepted means the project is approved. If pre-approval is required, students wait for acceptance before starting.



Project Status guide

Application review and changes

1 Notice from the fair

“Application Incomplete / See Your Teacher” means the fair has emailed you and your teacher.

2 Form corrections

The email explains which forms need to be corrected and how to send them.

3 Review status

After sending corrections, students can check Project Status for an updated decision.

Who reviews your application?

After you pay and upload the forms, an **administrator** checks for all required forms, signatures, and dates.

Complete applications go to the SRC. **The SRC reviews your research plan and project details** and decides whether to approve the project.

Changing your plan?

Before making any significant changes to your approved Research Plan, check with the SRC or your assigned SRC reviewer.
To change a title, category or sponsor after payment, email your SRC reviewer or the fair.

Which deadline applies?

The deadline depends on the project and whether the student has entered before.

A Maya's rainfall study

Maya is entering the fair for the first time. She plans to analyze only published rainfall data.

B Leo's classmate survey

Leo is entering the fair for the first time. He plans to survey classmates about their study habits.

C Sam's rainfall study

Sam entered the fair last year. This year, he plans to analyze only published rainfall data.

Why the deadlines differ

Maya’s deadline is January 8, 2027. She’s a first-time entrant, and her project uses only published rainfall data, so it doesn’t need pre-approval.

Leo’s deadline is November 13, 2026. Although he’s a first-time entrant, his survey needs IRB approval before he recruits classmates.

Sam’s deadline is November 13, 2026 because he entered before. He uses only published data, so he checks No on Form 1A, item 7. He submits Form 7 and waits for SRC clearance before starting.

Resources for later

Application Instructions • Deadlines • Check Project Status

Required Forms • Additional Forms • SRC Guidance

Student Leadership Committee resources at svslc.org

SLC resources for your project

Research Fundamentals

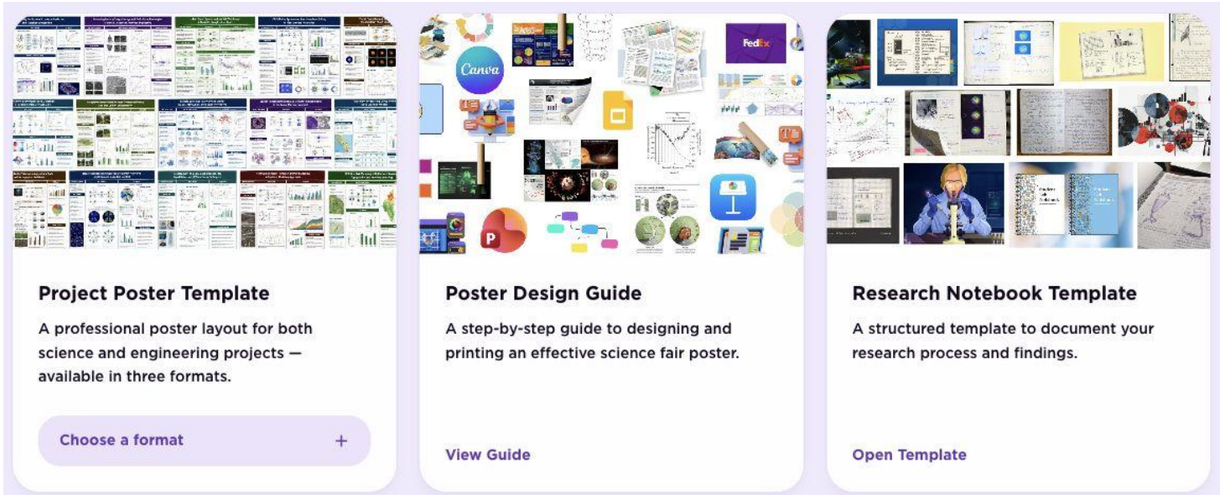
Short lessons cover research questions, literature reviews, and keeping a research notebook.

Datasets and tools

The searchable library includes datasets, software, and simulators organized by field.

Templates and guides

The notebook template helps students document their work. The poster template and guide help them present it.



svslc.org/resources

ISEF Rules Wizard

Answer questions about your project

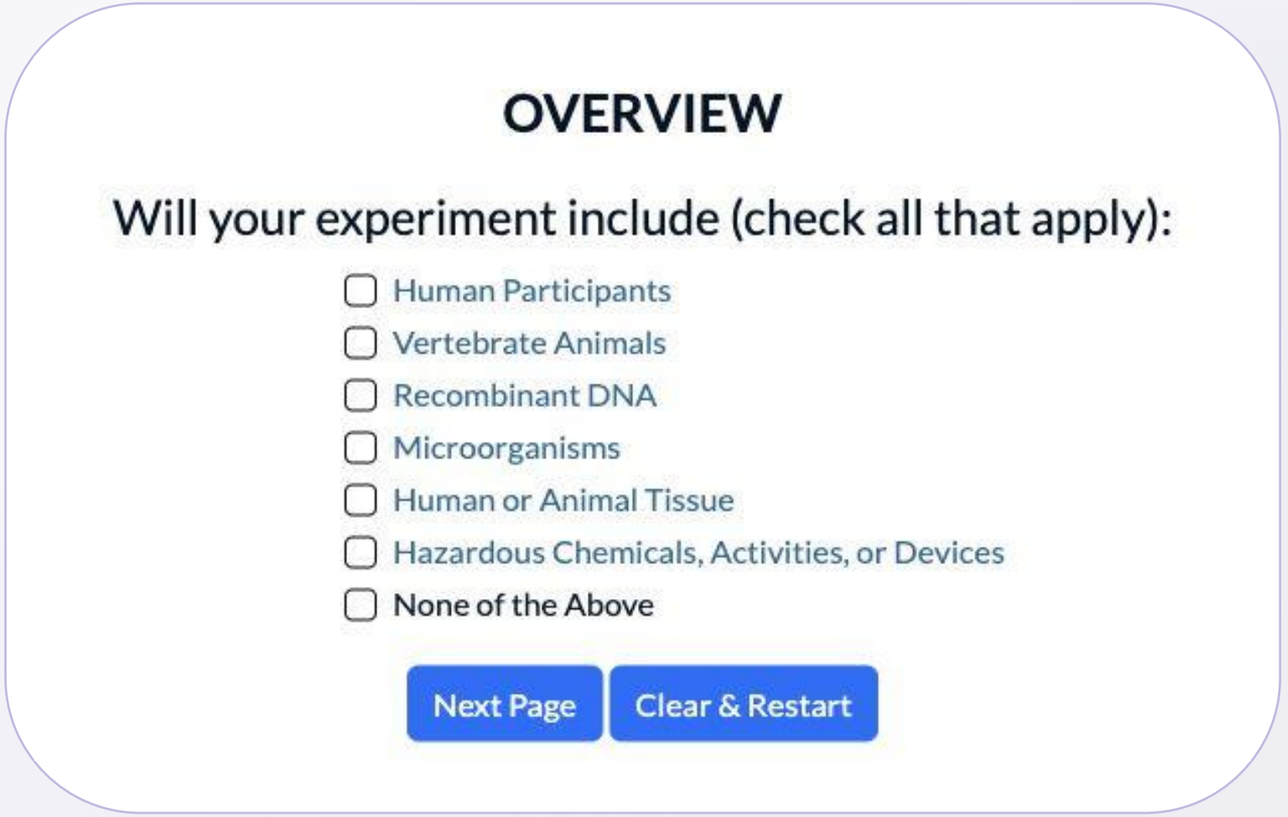
Every student should use the wizard. Select what your project involves, then follow the questions that apply.

Review the results

The results list forms and related guidance based on your answers. Review them with your Adult Sponsor before you start.

Check local requirements

Use the fair’s application instructions for what to submit and when it’s due.



Open the wizard

Official fair application instructions

Questions?

Questions about deadlines, forms, or whether a project needs pre-approval?

For a decision about a specific project, use the fair’s contact page to reach the SRC.