

Canadian Astronaut Announced as Guest Judge for Novel NUI Galway Science Competition

The science video competition, ReelLIFE SCIENCE, is open to all primary and secondary schools in Ireland

Monday, 31 August 2015: Commander Chris Hadfield, Canadian Astronaut, has been announced as guest judge for NUI Galway's ReelLIFE SCIENCE 2015 competition. The University is challenging all primary and secondary school students across Ireland to produce engaging and informative short videos communicating a scientific topic for the this year's competition.

Supported by the Science Foundation Ireland Discover programme and the CÚRAM Centre for Research in Medical Devices, ReelLIFE SCIENCE will award €3,000 directly to the winning schools for science promotion.

Joining Commander Hadfield on the judging panel is: Trinity College Dublin Professor of Molecular Evolution, Professor Aoife McLysaght; and BT Young Scientist and Technologists of the Year 2015, Ian O'Sullivan and Eimear Murphy from Coláiste Treasa, Kanturk, Co. Cork.

Speaking ahead of the competition, Commander Hadfield said: "I am very much looking forward to seeing the science videos that Irish students will be making! Discovery and creativity, turned loose by imagination. A great project that I am proud to be a part of."

Secondary school topics include 'Incredible Life' and 'Heroines of Science', while primary school students can choose from 'Science in Space', 'The Soil is Alive!' and 'Design your Future', among others.

Closing date for submissions is Friday, 16 October. The winning schools will be announced on Monday, 9 November during Science Week 2015, when they will be invited to attend a public screening and awards ceremony during the Galway Science and Technology Festival on 22 November.

ReelLIFE SCIENCE is organised by Dr Enda O'Connell and a team of science communication enthusiasts from NUI Galway, in collaboration with the Cell EXPLORERS outreach programme from the University's School of Natural Sciences. The competition has been running since 2013 and previous year's videos, made with cameras, tablets and smartphones, have tens of thousands of views in over 100 countries.

In 2014, the ReelLIFE SCIENCE challenge was taken up by thousands of students in 24 counties around Ireland, producing hundreds of three-minute science videos for the competition, in both English and Irish. Last year's judge Dr. Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin said: "I was astounded by the calibre of the videos from both the primary and secondary schools. It is wonderful to see the thought, preparation, fun, and learning that went into all of the videos and it is very encouraging to see students enjoying and communicating science."

The 2014 primary school category winners were Sooe National School, Co. Sligo, with Leaving Certificate student Julien Torrades from Summerhill College, Sligo taking first place at secondary school level.

Previous year's videos and more information about the 2015 competition can be found at www.reellifescience.com.

-Ends-

For more information contact Dr Enda O'Connell, NCBES, NUI Galway, at enda.oconnell@nuigalway.ie or 091 495435.

CAH – CSA –Photocard.JPG *Canadian Astronaut and ReelLIFE SCIENCE Special Guest Judge Commander Chris Hadfield. Photo credit CSA.*

CAH – NASA.jpg *Canadian Astronaut and ReelLIFE SCIENCE Special Guest Judge Commander Chris Hadfield. Photo credit NASA.*

2015 Poster Main Photo.jpg *Reaching for the Stars are (l-r) Justina Smidtaite, Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla, Galway and Charlie O'Connell, Scoil Éanna, Bullaun, Co. Galway. Photographer Claire Riordan.*

Contact: Sheila Gorham on +353 91 493543 or sheila.gorham@nuigalway.ie

About NUI Galway

NUI Galway* is one of Ireland's foremost centres of academic excellence. Over 17,000 students undertake an extensive range of studies at the University, which is renowned for the quality of its graduates.

NUI Galway is a research-led University with internationally recognised expertise in areas including Biomedical Science and Engineering, Web Science, Human Rights, Marine Science, Energy and Environmental Science, Applied Social Sciences and Public Policy, and Humanities, in particular literature, theatre and Irish Studies.

For more information visit www.nuigalway.ie or view all NUI Galway news [here](#).

*The University's official title is National University of Ireland Galway. Please note that the only official abbreviation is NUI Galway.