

FAQs about TDK

Every year many of our students participate in the TDK competition and similar questions frequently arise. Here you can find clear concise answers to many common questions.

What is TDK?

The name TDK is the abbreviation of the Hungarian conference which translates into English as Scientific Students' Conference. However, it is not actually just a conference but part of a longer process and a nationwide movement, which allows students to get a feel for academic activities with guidance from a consultant.

Why take part in TDK?

Students can gain a lot of experience by participating in TDK without taking any risks. All students must write a thesis in order to graduate and often a TDK research paper can be used as the basis for a future thesis (Although the reverse is not possible). As well as this, a TDK paper is read not only by the consultant but also by two independent reviewers who judge whether it meets the required academic standards. Any parts which do not meet requirements can be revised, expanded and rewritten before submission as a thesis. As national and international scholarships are generally merit-based awards, points are frequently granted for TDK participation.

How do I select a suitable research topic?

The process of writing an academic research paper for TDK often starts when a student comes across an aspect of their studies they wish to investigate in more depth while working on a paper or project for class, or even whilst working on a thesis. Unlike for a thesis, the student develops the idea into a TDK academic research paper with the support of a consultant.

Get in touch with the teaching staff from your faculty if you would like to apply for TDK, even if you have never done anything like this before!

How is the consultant selected?

Any member of the faculty teaching staff can act as a supervisor for a TDK research paper.

How long should a TDK research paper be?

In order to present a well-developed research topic in sufficient detail, the main body of the paper (without cover page, contents page and appendices) should be between 10 and 25 pages.

What are the content requirements of a TDK research paper?

Choose a topic that is novel and of theoretical or practical importance that hasn't been studied before. You should research and familiarise yourself with relevant literature to show why the topic is important and what methods can be used to research it. The topic must be laid out clearly and worked through logically in a well-structured manner. It is also essential to present your ideas in such a way that it is easy to follow and that it shows that the conclusions drawn are correct. The paper should conform to academic formatting and referencing guidelines and use clearly defined concepts and terminology.

What is the deadline for submitting a TDK paper?

The deadline is usually 1 or 2 weeks before the TDK conference and is decided by the institute.

Who marks the papers?

The papers are evaluated by two independent reviewers according to predetermined criteria. A maximum of 80 of the 100 total points can be awarded for the written research paper. The rest are awarded for the oral presentation. (see below)

Are there any other tasks besides the essay?

TDK research paper must also be presented orally in the relevant faculty section meeting. The presentation should briefly outline the research study and its findings and last between 15 and 20 minutes. Presentations are normally given with a slide show (e.g. PPT or Prezi). The jury and any members of the audience may put questions to the presenter and this often leads to a discussion about the topic and its findings.

How is the overall score calculated?

After the oral presentation, a board of at least 4 members will judge the TDK entries on the basis of the written research paper and oral presentation. Each entry can be awarded up to 100 points; 80 points for the written paper and 20 points for the oral presentation. The board will select the best entries to be entered into the national round.

Is it possible to change the research paper after its evaluation?

Yes, entries may be revised and amended to accommodate the suggestions and comments made by the evaluating board after the section meeting before submitting the finalised version for the national OTDK conference.

When is the national round?

The national OTDK conference is usually held every two years in the spring semester. Only selected papers from the preceding 2 years are eligible for submission.

What happens at the national OTDK conference?

The proceedings of the OTDK conference are similar to those of the university TDK conference. The research papers are assessed by two independent reviewers and presented orally. Unlike at the university rounds, entrants will be given the reviews of their papers before the oral presentations in order to be able to respond to any comments made. The board will determine the scores and ranking of the entries and award special prizes to worthy entrants.

Quick Guide to applying for TDK.

- ◆ Select your topic and find a supervisor.
- ◆ Start your research and decide the scope of the thesis.
- ◆ Prepare an abstract briefly outlining the topic, its relevance, methods and aims of the thesis, any questions it will address and possible hypotheses.
- ◆ Register and log in to the University of Miskolc TDK website.
- ◆ Upload the abstract and hand in a printed copy of the application form to the institute's TDK representative.
- ◆ Write the paper and submit two spiral-bound copies.
- ◆ Prepare and practice delivering the presentation so it is no longer than 20 minutes.
- ◆ Attend the institute's section meeting and present the paper.

If the research paper makes it to the national round:

- ◆ Make revisions as suggested by the reviewers and board.
- ◆ Upload the final version of the essay to the national OTDK website.
- ◆ Prepare the oral presentation.
- ◆ Enjoy the conference!

Find more information here about:

University of Miskolc Humanities and Social Science Faculty TDK:

<https://bolcsesz.uni-miskolc.hu/uj/tdk.php#tdk>

University TDK website and registration:

<https://tdk.iit.uni-miskolc.hu/>

National OTDK website for students:

<https://otdk.hu/hallgatoknak>