

Student Guidance for Poster Presentations

Poster Presentation Guidance

The poster presentation provides an opportunity to showcase your research, critical thinking, and ability to communicate evidence effectively. Expectations vary by level of study, so please read the section relevant to your programme.

Regardless of your level, your poster should be visually engaging, academically rigorous, and accessible to a broad audience. It should present your work clearly, using concise text, appropriate graphics, and high-quality evidence.

Undergraduate Students

At the undergraduate level, your poster should demonstrate that you have developed a good understanding of the published literature relating to your chosen topic.

What we expect

Your poster should:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing evidence.
- Be based on evidence from peer-reviewed academic literature.
- Use a PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) framework to demonstrate how you identified, screened, and selected the literature included in your review.
- Summarise the key findings from the literature rather than simply describing individual studies.
- Draw clear conclusions based on the available evidence.

What is PRISMA?

PRISMA is an internationally recognised framework used to report how literature has been systematically searched and selected. It provides a transparent method for showing:

- Where you searched for evidence.
- How many articles were identified.
- Which papers were excluded (and why).
- Which studies were finally included in your review.

Including a PRISMA flow diagram demonstrates that your literature search was systematic, transparent, and evidence-based.

Recommended poster structure

Your poster should normally include:

- Title
- Authors
- Background
- Aim(s)
- Search Strategy / PRISMA
- Key Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- References

Poster examples

This guidance pack contains examples of:

1. Posters that fully meet the assessment criteria.
2. Posters that meet some but not all criteria.
3. Posters that do not meet the required standard.

Reviewing these examples carefully will help you understand the expected standard.

Recommended webinars

Although attendance is voluntary, we strongly encourage you to attend the following sessions.

Webinar 1 – Poster Presentation Overview

- Overview of the assessment
- Expectations
- Common mistakes
- Marking criteria

Webinar 2 – Understanding PRISMA

- Literature searching

- Building a PRISMA diagram
- Selecting evidence

Webinar 3 – Designing an Effective Poster

- Layout and visual design
- Team working
- Effective communication

Webinar 4 – Presenting the Evidence

- Presenting key findings clearly
- Answering questions
- Communicating research confidently

Master's Students

At Master's level, we expect greater critical analysis and independent evaluation of the evidence. Your poster may be based on:

- research you have already completed,
- a dissertation project,
- an audit or service evaluation,
- or a critical systematic literature review.

What we expect

Your poster should demonstrate:

- Critical evaluation rather than simple description.
- Synthesis of current evidence.
- Discussion of strengths and limitations of the available research.
- Independent interpretation of findings.
- Clear implications for practice, policy or future research.

If you have collected original data, this should be included where appropriate.

However, collecting primary data is not essential.

A well-designed, critically appraised literature review supported by an appropriate PRISMA framework is often stronger than a poorly presented primary research project.

Suggested poster structure

Depending on your project, your poster may include:

- Title
- Background
- Aim(s)
- Methodology
- Results
- Critical Discussion
- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- References

PhD and Professional Doctorate Students

Doctoral posters should reflect the stage of your research journey while demonstrating the academic rigour expected at doctoral level.

Your poster should clearly communicate your research to an interdisciplinary audience.

What we expect

Your poster should include:

- The philosophical underpinning of your study.
- The rationale for the research.
- Research aims and objectives.
- Key themes from the literature.
- The methodology and methods employed.
- Current progress within your doctoral journey.

Depending on where you are in your programme, your poster may focus on:

Early-stage researchers

Present:

- Research background
- Rationale
- Literature review
- Research gap
- Research questions
- Proposed methodology
- Planned methods

Mid-stage researchers

Present:

- Literature review
- Methodology
- Data collection
- Preliminary analysis
- Emerging findings

Final-stage researchers

Present:

- Main findings
- Interpretation
- Contributions to knowledge
- Implications for practice or policy
- Future research

Please also indicate your year of study clearly on your poster.

Doctoral Webinar

Webinar 5 – Doctoral Research Posters

Topics include:

- Presenting complex research visually
- Communicating methodology
- Demonstrating originality
- Answering questions from diverse audiences

Poster Review Activity (All Students)

Following the poster presentations, all students will take part in a peer-review exercise.

This forms an important part of the conference experience and encourages you to critically evaluate the work of others.

After viewing all submitted posters, you will be invited to select your three favourites.

Please award:

Gold Star – Your highest-rated poster

Silver Star – Your second highest-rated poster

Bronze Star – Your third highest-rated poster

Each reviewer may award:

- One Gold Star
- One Silver Star
- One Bronze Star

You may not award more than one star to the same poster.

Judging criteria

When reviewing posters, consider:

- Clarity of the research question
- Quality and relevance of the evidence
- Critical analysis
- Organisation and structure
- Visual design
- Effective communication
- Overall impact

A **QR code will be provided**, allowing reviewers to submit constructive comments and feedback for the students.

Poster Formatting

All posters should include:

- University or conference logo(s)
- Student name(s)
- Institution
- Programme of study
- Level of study (Undergraduate, Master's, PhD/Professional Doctorate)
- Year of study (Doctoral students)
- References

Webinar Schedule

To maximise international attendance, all live webinars will be scheduled during the UK's **"Golden Hour"** for global audiences:

4:00–5:00 pm (UK time)

This corresponds approximately to:

- **11:00 am–12:00 pm Eastern Time (ET)**
- **8:00–9:00 am Pacific Time (PT)**

This timing enables participants from North America, the UK, and Europe to attend live.