Brunel University Research Student Conference

Showcasing the best in postgraduate research

Tuesday 4 – Wednesday 5 June 2019
Hamilton Centre, Newton room, Brunel University

The Brunel University Research Student Conference, run annually by the Graduate School, aims to bring together research students from all Colleges to showcase the high calibre of research across the University. It strives to provide research students with a peer-reviewed platform for showcasing their work, to offer an impetus to engage in professional development, and provide an opportunity for networking with staff and students from across the University. Participation in the poster conference can be recorded under the 'Dissemination' category of the Brunel 3D Researcher Development Tool.

Entry Guidelines

Please read these guidelines carefully as they contain important information about your participation in the conference.

Eligibility

All currently enrolled Brunel research students are welcome to enter (PhD, MPhil, EdD, DrPH and Brunel Integrated PhD (NewRoute PhD)). Past winners are welcome to participate but please note that it will not be possible to win the same prize on more than one occasion (for full terms and conditions see below).

All students must be available between 10:30 – 17:00 to present their poster on Tuesday 4 June. A buffet lunch and break will be provided between 12:30 – 13:30.

All students must ideally be available between 18:00 – 19:30 on Wednesday 5 June for the Prize-Giving Ceremony and BBQ Reception.

Before the Conference

Registration & Submission of Abstract

To participate you must (i) register online and (ii) submit your abstract by email by midnight on Friday May 10 2019. Both parts must be completed by the deadline to secure your place.

- Complete the online registration form at https://researchconference2019.eventbrite.co.uk
- Submit your abstract to researchabstract@brunel.ac.uk. You will receive confirmation of your abstract submission. For further details about preparing your abstract, please see below.
• In discussion with your supervisor, identify and specify which of the two following categories your research poster broadly belongs in:
  a. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) or
  b. Arts, Social Sciences or Humanities
• You will be required to provide the following information: Poster title, your name and student number, Colleges / Department / Research Institute, mode of study: - Part time/full time, year and date of registration, category of research: STEM or Social Sciences / Arts Humanities or Social Sciences, your email address, the names of your supervisors, supervisors’ email addresses.

**During the Conference**

**Displaying Your Poster**
You must bring your poster to the Newton room in the Hamilton Building between **09:00 and 10:15** on Tuesday **4 June**. Your poster must be on display by **10:30**.

Posters must be left displayed until the close of the conference at **19:30** on **Wednesday 5 June**.

**Presenting Your Poster**
Students must commit to presenting their poster in person between **10:30 and 17:00** on Tuesday **4 June**. Students will be expected to spend around 5 minutes explaining their research to each of their judges. When not presenting your poster, you will have the opportunity to interact with the other researchers and view other posters. If you have any specific requirements that need to be addressed (e.g. problems with standing for long periods of time) please email graduateschool@brunel.ac.uk or call 01895265935.

**After the Conference**

Prize winners are required to display their posters in the Graduate School foyer for **two weeks** after the event. Any posters not collected immediately after the close of the event will be kept within the Graduate School for collection. Any posters not collected three months after the event will be returned directly to your College.

**Terms and Conditions**

1. Students MUST register by the deadline of midnight on 10 May to be eligible for entry.Registrations submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.
2. Students MUST supply an abstract by the abstract deadline of midnight on 10 May be eligible for entry. Abstracts submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.
3. Posters MUST be exhibited by 10:30 on Tuesday 4 June to be eligible for display.
4. Students who do not attend in person for their allocated time slot on June 4 may fail to be judged and therefore not receive a mark for the oral presentation of their poster.
5. Prize eligibility (early stage researcher competition): Only students in the first year of their registration (0-12 months full time; 0-24 month’s part time) will be eligible to win the early stage researcher competition.
6. Prize eligibility (Vice Chancellor’s prizes): Past winners of one of the main Vice Chancellor’s prizes (poster competition) will NOT be eligible to win the same prize again, but are welcome to participate in this year’s poster event in order to benefit from the networking and feedback opportunities provided. Past winners of an early stage prize will be eligible to win a Vice Chancellor’s prize.
Guidance on Creating Your Poster

The poster is a great way to communicate your research visually and to inspire interesting conversation with those attending. Creativity is welcome. Further guidance can be sought from the Research Skills Online course or by consulting your supervisor, or by attending a workshop on the Researcher Development Programme.

Your poster must be of A1 size and include:
- Your name
- The name of your College and department
- Poster Title
- The Brunel University logo

Suggested standards (for guidance only)
- Remember that the aim is to create a poster that is comprehensible to those who are not necessarily experts in your discipline.
- Title – 65-70pt bold (centred) in a sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri), ideally no more than 10 words.
- Main headings – 32pt sans-serif font, bold, no more than 5 words recommended.
- Body text – use at least 20pt sans-serif font justified text.
- Captions – 16pt italic (at top for graphs, at bottom for drawings).
- Maintain consistency by using the same text sizes and image width on all figures.
- The less text the better – people are attracted to highly visual, low text posters.
- Do not use all upper-case type on your poster it can be difficult to read.
- Choose appropriate graphs for your poster, make annotations easy to read. Lines of the graph should be thick enough to be seen from a distance. Keep all graphs the same size.
- Diagrams should be labelled and easily seen from a distance.

Suggested structure (will vary for each discipline)
- **Title** of the project, the people involved in the work and their affiliation.
- **Introduction/Aim of Study** make clear statements about the problem you are trying to solve, the characteristics you are trying to discover or the proofs you are trying to establish.
- **Methodology** should explain the basis of the technique that you are using or the procedure you have adopted in your study.
- **Results** typically show illustrative examples of your findings.
- **Conclusion** lists the main findings, as well as contain recommendations and thoughts on how the work could be progressed.
Guidance on Writing Your Abstract

Your abstract should be between 50 – 150 words and provide an overview of the content of your poster. This should be submitted as part of the registration process on Tuesday 7 May 2019. Only one abstract submission is allowed per student in entry to this conference. The abstract should provide an overview of the research presented in your poster; this process is in line with most external poster conferences (national and international) where abstract submission prior to acceptance is compulsory.

A well-written abstract should interest the reader and inform them about your work in a succinct manner. The basic components of an abstract in any discipline are:

1. **Motivation / Problem Statement**: What is the importance and scope of your work? What practical, theoretical, technical or artistic gap is your research addressing?
2. **Method / Procedure/ Approach**: What did you do to and how did you do it? (If proposing a future project) What will you do and how will you propose to do it?
3. **Results / Findings / Product**: What did you learn, create, invent or discover? (If proposing a future project) What are your speculations?
4. **Conclusions / Implications**: How do/will your findings add to the larger body of knowledge and describe any future proposals (if any).

**Training**

- PRESENTATION SKILLS: How to create and design a poster presentation. To book a place, please click [here](#).
- PRESENTATION SKILLS: Techniques to deliver successful oral presentations. To book a place, please click [here](#).

**Frequently asked questions**

How can I print my poster?

It is the entrant’s responsibility to arrange and pay for printing of their poster. You are welcome to take advantage of the discount offered through Drayton and Uxbridge Press (see voucher at end of document), or print independently. Students are strongly recommended to submit their posters to supervisors for review before printing and are advised to print posters well in advance of the competition deadline.

What should I wear?

It is advisable to wear smart but comfortable clothing.

What kind of printing should I choose?

Matt printing is preferable to gloss. Remember to allow space at the margins to avoid cropping. Students are advised to have their poster encapsulated to protect it from wear and tear: The Graduate School is not responsible for any damage to posters during the conference.

What are the judging criteria?

Posters are marked by academics from across the University and each poster will be independently marked by four judges, two for your oral presentation of your poster, two for the poster itself. Awards will be given to entrants whose posters are judged to be the most interesting and which successfully and succinctly describe a significant piece of research to the general audience. Your interaction with the judges and ability to respond to questions will also contribute to your overall mark. **The mark sheet is attached to this document for reference.**
Who will my poster be viewed by?
The conference attracts a wide audience from within and outside the University. Therefore, those viewing your posters will be from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. The event is intentionally cross-disciplinary, and you are being judged in part on your ability to represent your research to those who may not be experts in your field. You will be judged by one academic with broad expertise in your field and one with expertise in another discipline. You should bear this in mind when considering how to present your work.

Will I receive feedback on my entry?
Yes, qualitative feedback will be sent to you and your supervisor following the event.

How will posters be displayed?
Posters will be displayed in a pre-assigned order, and subject areas will be distributed throughout the exhibition. As this is a cross-disciplinary conference, one of the key benefits is the opportunity to network with colleagues from outside your own area of research, Colleges / Institute, and stage of research. This is an excellent opportunity to make contacts and gain exposure to work being conducted at Brunel that you may not otherwise discover.

Prizes
Five Vice Chancellor’s prizes of £500 each will be awarded. One Graduate School prize of £250 for the best poster presented by an early stage researcher (0-12 month into their research, or 0-24 months part-time) will be also be awarded.

One honourable certificate will be awarded for three best posters from each College.

A certificate of participation will be issued for each participant.

For more information, contact:
Brunel Graduate School reception, Halsbury 159,
graduateschool@brunel.ac.uk
Tel: 01895 265935
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster Layout And Content</th>
<th>Mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Logical structure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout is logical and it is easy to navigate through the content.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of suitable fonts &amp; illustrations</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headings and subheadings are large / bold. Symbols and captions are used appropriately. Diagrams, tables etc. are used as visual aids and are labelled.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of grammar, spelling and language</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct grammar, tense and academic language is used to communicate effectively.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effective communication of research</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research objectives, motivations, outcomes and forecasts are clear to the reader and are presented at a standard expected at doctoral level.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MARK FOR POSTER LAYOUT AND CONTENT</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEEDBACK FOR STUDENT**

**Poster Layout And Content**

**STUDENT NAME:** ................................................................. **POSTER NUMBER:** ...........

Logical structure:

Use of suitable fonts and illustrations:

Use of grammar, spelling and language:

Effective communication of research:

Other comments:
# POSTER PRESENTATION ASSESSMENT

## Poster Presentation And Verbal Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student is present next to the poster, gives time for reader to look through and is ready to speak about the poster.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of work presented</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student is clear and informed of the content of the poster. Student shows insightful knowledge about the research being presented. Student is able to contextualise the research appropriately.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability to answer questions and flexibility in presenting</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student is willing to answer questions to the best of their ability where possible. They are able to explain complex details in simple terms to unfamiliar audience.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall communication</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student succeeded in conveying the message of the poster through effective oral communication skills.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL MARK FOR PRESENTATION & VERBAL COMMUNICATION: 50

### FEEDBACK FOR STUDENT

## Poster Presentation And Verbal Communication

### STUDENT NAME: ........................................ POSTER NUMBER: ..........

**Presence:**

**Knowledge of work presented:**

**Ability to answer questions and flexibility in presenting:**

**Overall communication:**

**Other comments:**
A special concessionary rate for the printing of your A1 size posters has been arranged with DRAYTON PRESS & UXBRIDGE PRESS.

Artwork can be emailed to print@drayton.co.uk or uploaded via our file transfer site www.SEND.drayton.co.uk. Once printed we can return your poster(s) by overnight courier which is trackable and requires a signature.

POSTER PRICES
expires 3 June 2019

A1 Size – £18 (840 x 594mm)
Encapsulation - Add £15

Delivery Options
UPS Overnight Courier – £7.95

Please quote BUSCon19 when submitting your artwork via email or transfer for these rates to be applied.

email: print@drayton.co.uk
transfer: www.SEND.drayton.co.uk (for files over 5MB in size)