

# University Research Day 2014

## Guidelines for Postgraduate Student Poster Presenters

Now in its 8th consecutive year, the University of Strathclyde Research Day is a one day event celebrating Strathclyde's research achievements, as well as providing an opportunity for the interdisciplinary sharing of good practice in research and a vehicle for promoting effective collaboration.

As part of Research Day 2014, we welcome the exposition of current research by postgraduate research students, with cash prizes of £250 awarded to the four top rated posters. Winning posters will be those that demonstrate **excellent communication** of the **justification and outcomes** of the **research** to a **non-specialist audience**.

Poster presentations at URD 2014 are open to all postgraduate research students. Space limitations mean that only the top 100 abstracts will be selected through a peer review process. Poster training sessions are offered to the 100 successful presenters.

### Key Dates

Student Poster Abstract Submission Deadline: 24th March, 2014

Poster Training Dates: Session 1 - 22<sup>nd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> April; Session 2 - 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> May

Poster Printing Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

University Research Day: 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

### Abstract Submission Process

Candidates are required to submit an abstract of up to 300 words on the work they wish to present at the University Research Day. Successful candidates will be invited to present a poster on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014. There will be four poster prizes of £250 each. Please note the above abstract submission date.

All poster presenters are required to participate in two poster training sessions, and students should highlight which sessions they are able to attend on the abstract submission form.

### Abstract Evaluation

All abstracts will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Is the work put in context in relation to the research field?
- Are the research questions and/or hypotheses clearly stated?
- Is the motivation for doing the work clearly explained?
- Is the methodology clearly explained?

- Are the results/outputs/impacts from the work clearly stated?

All students will be emailed the outcome of their abstract submission by 5pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Please submit your abstract at:

<http://ewds.strath.ac.uk/researchday/Forms/StudentAbstract.aspx>

## **Poster Presentation Training**

Postgraduates whose abstracts are selected for presentation will be required to attend two poster training sessions (dates below). The training sessions will be hosted by a professional poster designer.

### Session 1

The initial session will consist of a presentation on best practice in poster design to a multidisciplinary audience, followed by a break-out session where peers will work in small groups to develop their designs. Students should bring along a poster they have previously presented or another representation (maybe an image) of their research. The first training sessions, from which you should select one date, will be held on the following days:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014
- 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014

After the first poster training session, students will be asked to develop a draft poster in preparation for session 2.

### Session 2

The draft posters that have been prepared will be displayed to facilitate review/reflection by peers in the session. Emphasis will be placed on developing transferable skills such as critical feedback, self-confidence, networking, communication skills, and personal effectiveness. Session 2 will be held on the following dates, of which you should choose one:

- 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014
- 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014

When you submit your abstract you will have to declare your availability for each of the training slots. You will then be allocated a timeslot according to your availability.

## **Target Audience**

The University Research Day attracts a diverse audience from all of the University Faculties, plus outside visitors from industry, local government and other universities. As a result, your poster should be of interest to someone without specialist knowledge of your academic field.

Some guidelines:

- Limit your use of technical jargon, equations, and abbreviations.

- Explain the aims of your work so that it is of interest for someone unfamiliar with your own subject area.
- You can make your poster as detailed as you wish, as long as you can present it in a general way to someone unfamiliar with your own subject field.

Please contact us at [researchday@strath.ac.uk](mailto:researchday@strath.ac.uk) if you have any comments or queries.

## Poster Design

The notes below are an outline of the skills which are needed to design a professional poster. The training sessions will cover poster design in depth.

The layout of a poster should encourage attendees (and judges!) to stop and read more. While an innovative layout and graphical design can make a poster stand out, the design should not compete with the story that you are trying to get across. Above all, it should be clear and easy to read.

Some guidelines:

- The title is the first thing that attendees will read and should have the greatest impact. Questions can be very effective.
- Make sure you use only one font throughout, including diagrams. Avoid capital letters.
- Pick a font size that can be easily read.
- Make good use of photos, diagrams, tables and charts.
- Follow the guidelines for use of the University logos and branding.
- Check the Research Day Website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/researchday/>) to look at last year's winning posters.

The most popular programme for poster design is Microsoft PowerPoint. Other options are Illustrator and Photo Shop. Set up a blank slide and change the dimensions to A1 size and portrait orientation. Print services recommend that you save the file in .pdf format. Please be aware that diagrams and charts may not print exactly as they look in PowerPoint, so be sure to check the finished poster.

We recognise that some flexibility in interpreting these criteria will be necessary for fair comparison across disciplines.

## Printing

Visit Posters Plus Online Ordering (<http://www.learningservices.strath.ac.uk/bureau/index.asp>) to have your completed poster printed.

The completed poster must be A1 size (841mm high x 594mm wide), in portrait orientation. Posters of any other size or orientation will not be accepted or displayed.

Please note that printing costs, for students, are paid for by the University Research Day funding.

### Poster Evaluation Criteria

In addition to more detailed consideration of the abstract evaluation criteria the poster judges will also consider:

- The novelty and impact of the research.
- The knowledge and expertise of the poster presenter with respect to the work presented.
- The design and clarity of the poster.
- How the student defends their poster on the day of the event

Please note that, on the day, posters may be evaluated by 2, and in some cases, 3 separate judging panels. Therefore, students are advised not to leave their poster after the first round of judging.