



## AAAS 2026 Student E-poster Competition Guidelines

The AAAS Student E-poster Competition recognizes the individual efforts of students who are actively working toward an undergraduate, a graduate or a doctoral degree (**postdoctoral students are not eligible to apply even if presenting work from graduate school**). Multidisciplinary research projects are encouraged.

Students will submit an abstract and upload a 1-page e-poster PDF. All submitters **MUST** be present in person at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Undergraduate and graduate students are scored with the same rubric and criteria but are evaluated separately.

### Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the Student E-poster Competition,

- If you previously won first place or honorable mention at the AAAS Student E-poster Competition, you cannot apply unless your research is based on a completely different project.**
  - Same research (even with changes) and a different presenter will not be accepted.
  - Same research (even with changes) in a different category will not be accepted.
  - Same research with changes in data, methodology, results, etc., will not be accepted.
- Each applicant can only submit one abstract and must pay \$25 (\$25 non-refundable abstract fee by October 17<sup>th</sup> and \$75 for the registration fee by November 19<sup>th</sup>).
- Advisers must certify that the research presented on the poster involves only the work of students enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degree program at the time the work was performed.
  - Please alert your adviser to respond to our verification email (it may go to their spam folder). They receive the email once you confirm your application (after payment tab).**
  - Advisors must verify by the deadline of October 17<sup>th</sup> or you will be disqualified.** Please complete your application before the deadline.
- Co-authors and advisor's names can appear on the E-poster PDF, but they cannot be listed in the abstract submission, they cannot help you with the designing of the E-poster, nor can they participate in the presentation.
- Research proposals and promotions of a product or a program will not be accepted

**\*Submissions that do not meet these criteria will be disqualified.**

### Prizes

The first place-winning undergraduate and graduate students in each category will receive a cash award of \$500, a one-year AAAS membership that includes a digital subscription to the journal *Science*, their name and poster title published in *Science*, and a recognition certificate.

The honorable mention-winning undergraduate and graduate students in each category will have their

name and poster title published in *Science* and will receive a recognition certificate. The student presenters are the only eligible recipients of the cash awards and prizes.

## 2026 AAAS E-Poster Timeline

Weekday	Month/Day	Time	Events
Thursday	June 5	9:00 AM ET	E-poster abstract submission site opens
<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 17</b>	<b>11:59 PM PT</b>	<b>E-poster abstract submission site closes; and deadline to submit \$25 payment</b>
Tuesday	October 21		Abstract acceptance and decline notices emailed Instructions for registration & E-poster PDF upload portal emailed
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>November 19</b>	<b>11:59 PM PT</b>	<b>Deadline to upload final E-poster PDF, register and pay \$75 for meeting</b>
Tuesday	November 25	11:59 PM PT	E-poster pdf upload acceptance and withdrawn notices emailed
Thursday	December 18		Poster pod schedule and on-site information emailed
Friday – Saturday	February 13-14	<b>TBA</b>	E-poster practice rounds Student E-poster Competition Presentations
Tuesday	March 3		First Place, Honorable Mention, and runner up notices emailed

## Categories

***Please review all categories to carefully select the one that is most relevant to your research.***

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**  
 Includes the fields of biochemistry, chemical biology, genomics, proteomics, structural biology
- Brain and Behavior**  
 Includes the fields of neuroscience and psychology
- Cell Biology**  
 Includes the fields of physiology and all areas related to cells
- Developmental Biology, Genetics, and Immunology**  
 Includes the fields of evolution and developmental biology, genetics, host responses, infectious diseases, all areas of immunology
- Environment and Ecology**  
 Includes the fields of agriculture, food science, and renewable resources; geology and geography, as well as atmospheric and hydrospheric sciences
- Medicine and Public Health**  
 Includes dentistry and oral health sciences, medical and pharmaceutical sciences
- Physical Sciences**  
 Includes the fields of astronomy, chemistry, geology, mineralogy, meteorology, and physics
- Science in Society**  
 Includes the history and philosophy of science, general interest in sciences and engineering, science communication, and public engagement

- **Social Sciences**  
Includes the fields of anthropology, economics, education, language and culture, political science, and sociology
- **Technology, Engineering, and Math**  
Includes fields of computer science, information technology, industrial science, and statistics

## Abstract Submission General Guidelines

Presenters can log in and edit their abstract up to the submission deadline (**Oct 17**).

**Abstract Sections:** All abstracts should be informative and contain the following sections:

1. **Background:** A brief statement of study's objectives
2. **Methods:** A concise statement of methods
3. **Results:** A clear presentation of results, which should be "data rich"
4. **Conclusions:** A closing statement of study's conclusions; do not state "results will be discussed."

If your abstract submissions do not adhere to guidelines I – III, it will NOT be approved.

- I. Abstract titles must use all capital letters and are limited to 85 characters.
- II. Abstracts are limited to 2600 characters (not including spaces). Please type or paste the abstract as a **1 paragraph-single text block** (**No indents, no bullets, and no line breaks**).
- III. The E-poster title, co-authors, citations, footnotes, graphics, and funding acknowledgements are not allowed within the abstract text.
- IV. Work must be proofread carefully before submission. Abstracts that show lack of care or quality control as evidenced by grammatical, punctuation, spelling, and typographical errors are reviewed less favorably.
- V. AAAS staff has the right to reformat the abstract if needed to conform to standards required for the online program and the meeting app.

## E-Poster PDF Upload

For the 2026 AAAS Annual Meeting, each approved abstract, submitters will create an E-poster PDF and will upload it to our Confex site. Instructions to come after abstract submission is accepted. You can make changes to the PDF up until the deadline.

The deadline to upload the final E-poster PDF, accept waiver form, complete registration form and pay for registration is **Wednesday, November 19, 11:59 PM PT**. Failure to do so will result in your submission being withdrawn.

## Competition and Evaluation – In-person

In-person competitions will be between members of their E-poster category. **Undergraduate and graduate students will be evaluated separately per their university level of study.** All presentations will take place concurrently on either Friday, February 13 or Saturday, February 14 -Time: TBA. E-Poster categories will be assigned in late December.

Presenters are invited to meet with judges for an 8-minute evaluation session (3-minute presentation and 5-minute Q&A). **Please make sure you are available on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> before you apply.**

After listening to oral presentations, judges will assess each poster using an evaluation form. After all posters from a category have been reviewed, judges will deliberate to select 1 **undergraduate and 1 graduate student** for first place and honorable mention winners per category (20 first place and 20 honorable mention winners).

Due to time constraints, first place winners will not be announced live at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

**Artificial intelligence (AI).** Text generated from AI, machine learning, or similar algorithmic tools cannot be used in papers published in AAAS Annual Meeting, nor can the accompanying figures, images, or graphics be the products of such tools, without explicit permission from the editors. In addition, an AI program cannot be an author of an e-poster. A violation of this policy constitutes scientific misconduct.

The official language of the 2026 AAAS Annual Meeting is American English

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Janneh Freeman at [jmfreeman@aaas.org](mailto:jmfreeman@aaas.org).

## Score Evaluation

### 2026 STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION EVALUATION FORM

Review questions have a scale of 1-10 (1=below average; 5=average; 10=outstanding)

#### E-poster:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
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- Is the poster well prepared?
- Is the poster crowded?
- Is the font size/style easy to read?
- Are there spelling errors?
- Is there a good flow of information?
- Does the poster stimulate interest and discussion?
- Is the flow of the poster easy to follow?
- Is the color scheme coherent?
- Are there at least 2 visuals on the poster? (Graphs, diagram, chart, pictures, etc.)

#### Presentation:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
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- Did the presenter speak loudly and make eye contact with the audience?
- Is the presentation well-organized?
- The presentation did not exceed 3-minutes (within reason)?
- Is the presentation balanced in content?
- Is the presentation logically sequenced?
- Does presenter demonstrate enthusiasm?

#### Results and Conclusion:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
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Are the results:

- Logical and properly summarized?
- Complete?
- Presented well?
- Presented with sufficient explanation?

Does the conclusion:

- Give results?
- Show the importance of the study?
- Show implications of the study?

#### Methodology:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
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- Are the methods appropriate and properly applied?
- Is the methodology original and detailed?

#### Understanding of Subject:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
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Did the presenter:

- Answer all the questions effectively?
- Clearly state objectives of the study and relationship to earlier work?
- Demonstrate an understanding of the subject?