

AAAS 2021 Student E-Poster Competition Guidelines

The AAAS Student E-Poster Competition recognizes the individual efforts of students who are actively working toward an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral-level degree. Multidisciplinary research projects are encouraged. The first place winning undergraduate and graduate students in each category will receive a cash award, a certificate and a one-year AAAS membership that includes a digital subscription to the journal *Science*. Second and third place winning undergraduate and graduate students will receive a certificate. In addition, all winners' names will be published in *Science*.

Eligibility Criteria

The competition is open to individuals who are full-time students at the time of submission for work recently performed while enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree program.

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.**

Each applicant can only submit one abstract and must include the non-refundable \$25 abstract submission fee.

Co-authors names can appear on the e-poster pdf, but they cannot be listed in the abstract submission nor can they participate in the oral presentation (video or virtual meeting with judges).

Research proposals and promotions of a product or a program will not be accepted.

Submissions that do not meet these criteria will be disqualified.

Timeline

Aug 4-Abstract submission site open

Oct 22, 11:59 PT-Submission site closes

Oct 29-Notification of acceptance or decline

Nov 5-Instructions on how to upload e-poster pdf and oral presentation video emailed

Dec 21, 11:59 PT-Deadline to submit final e-poster pdf and video

Early Jan 2021- First round review and scoring of e-poster pdfs and videos

Mid Jan 2021-Semi-finalists scheduled for live Zoom presentations with judges to determine winners (these sessions will be recorded for rebroadcast during the meeting).

Feb 1, 2021-All accepted Student E-poster abstracts, pdfs and videos are live on the online program

Feb 11, 2021-First, Second and Third place winners (undergraduate and graduate student) announced at the virtual meeting

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

General Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Presenters can log in and edit their abstract up to the submission deadline. Please carefully follow the instructions as approved abstracts will be used in the online program and the meeting app.

- **Abstract Sections:** All abstracts should be informative and contain the following sections:
 - **Background:** A brief statement of study's objectives
 - **Methods:** A concise statement of methods
 - **Results:** A clear presentation of results, which should be "data rich"
 - **Conclusions:** A closing statement of study's conclusions; do not state "results will be discussed."

- Abstract title must use all capital letters, and is limited to 85 characters (including spaces).
- Abstracts are limited to 2600 characters (including spaces). Please type or paste the abstract as a single text block (indents, bullets and line breaks will be removed).
- **The e-poster title, co-authors, citations, footnotes, graphics, and funding acknowledgements are not allowed within the abstract text and will be removed.**
- 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.
- AAAS staff will not edit abstracts for clarity. However, we will reformat the abstract if needed to conform to standards required for the online program and the meeting app.

E-Poster Design and Oral Presentation Tips Webinars

Accepted presenters will be notified of complimentary live webinars that will cover e- poster design, video production, and best practices for your oral presentation. Webinars will be recorded if you cannot attend the live sessions.

Oral Presentation Videos

For the 2021 AAAS Annual Meeting, each approved presenter will prepare a 3 minute oral presentation video that will be uploaded along with their abstract and e-poster pdf. These materials will be available for meeting attendees and the general public through the online program.

Presentations should include:

- A clear statement of the problem and its importance.
- A summary of key elements of your research and key findings.

Deadline to submit final e-poster pdf and video is **Dec 21, 11:59 PT**.

Competition and Evaluation

Competitions will be between members of the e-poster category. Undergraduate and graduate students will be evaluated per their university level of study.

E-poster evaluation will include:

- Methodology: Methods are appropriate and properly applied.
- Results: Logical, clearly presented, and properly summarized.
- Conclusion: Based on results presented; emphasizes significance and implications of study.
- Presentation: Poster is well-prepared, well-organized, balanced in content, and logically sequenced.
- Importance/originality of research.
- Understanding of subject: Clearly states objectives of the study and relationship to earlier work, demonstrates understanding of the subject and responds effectively.

Virtual Review and Judging

For the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, each approved presenter will prepare and submit a pdf of their e-poster and a 3 minute video that will be an oral synopsis of their work. These materials will be reviewed and scored to determine who will advance to the semi-final round. Semi-finalists will be invited to virtually meet with judges for a 10 min evaluation session. After listening to oral presentations, they will assess each poster using an evaluation form rating the above on a scale of 1-5, with 1 as “below average” and 5 as “outstanding.” After all posters from a category have been reviewed, judges will deliberate to select undergraduate and graduate student First, Second and Third place winners.

The semi-finalist sessions will be recorded to be broadcast during the meeting February 8-11, 2021. All winners will be announced on February 11, 2021.