

NSRC 2020 Oral and Poster Presentations - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I submit an abstract for the NSRC Student Presentations?

The submission form can be found on the NSRC 2020 page on the Aga Khan University website (www.aku.edu). Just fill out the form and submit it to send it your abstract.

What is the deadline for abstract submission?

The deadline for submission is *March 20th, 2020*. Abstracts which are received after the deadline will not be considered.

Is there a fee for abstract submission?

No. Students may submit their abstracts free of cost on the NSRC website. In the event that your abstract is selected to present at the conference, you will be required to pay a standard registration fee to attend and present at the conference

I submitted my abstract and found out later that I made an error. Can I edit this and resend the abstract?

No. At present we do not allow for revising or withdrawing abstracts once they are submitted. Please be sure to proof-read your abstract before sending it in, as you will not be allowed to resend an updated one later for any reason.

Who is responsible for selecting abstracts to present at the conference?

NSRC has a dedicated Scientific Committee responsible for the selection of abstracts for the conference. The Scientific Committee is made up of 11 students of the Aga Khan University Student Research Forum.

How will my abstract be judged?

Every abstract we receive for the conference will undergo a standardized blinded selection process. Each abstract will be reviewed and critiqued by 2 members of the Scientific Committee. The reviewers will award the abstract a score using the standardized scoring system below. The average score of the 2 reviewers will be taken. The abstracts with the highest scores will be selected to present at the conference.

Will preference be given to abstracts from any particular university or program?

No. NSRC prides itself on being unbiased and transparent about its selection process, and this year is no different. The entire selection process will be blinded – this means that the people reviewing each abstract will not know the name of the author or the university or program they are studying in.

This will be achieved through the following process. Upon submission, each abstract will be assigned a randomly generated 4-digit identifier. The names and universities of the authors will then be removed from the abstracts, and reviewers will only be able to see that 4-digit identifier.

How will I know if my abstract has been selected?

If your abstract has been selected, we will reach out to you using the email address you provided in the submission form and formally invite you to present at the conference. You will then have a week to reply and confirm your ability to attend.

I have been put on the “waitlist” to present. What does this mean?

Due to the high volume of applications we receive every year, it is not possible to accommodate everyone. However, some abstracts which received high scores by their reviewers, but not high enough to present will be put on a waitlist. This means that if another presenter chooses to drop out and not present at the conference, you will receive an invitation in their place to attend and present at the conference.

What is the difference between an oral and a poster presentation?

Oral presentations are presented to the judges in the form of a lecture presentation. It will be delivered verbatim with the help of a PowerPoint™ presentation and each presenter will have a fixed limited amount of time to present. At the end there will be Q&A session in which the judges will question the presenters and score them based on their answers as well.

Poster presentations are presented to the judges in the form of a research poster. The presenter is responsible for making the poster and sending it to us for printing. The posters will be judged on how efficiently they deliver their content in addition to the quality of research being presented.

Further instructions for both the oral and poster presentations will be delivered directly to those selected to present.

My abstract has been selected. How do I know if I should prepare a poster or an oral presentation?

The NSRC Scientific Committee will assign the selected abstracts to either the poster or oral presentation category and inform the authors whose abstracts were accepted which category they will be presenting in.

Is there any way to inform the Scientific Committee if I have a preference for either the poster or the oral category?

Yes. On the submission form there is an option to inform us if you prefer either the poster or oral category. Efforts will be made to ensure that selected abstracts get sorted into the category they prefer. However, keep in mind that due to limited spots for presentation it is not always possible to sort candidates into the category they prefer. For example, if you preferred to present in the oral category, we may still sort you into the poster category if there are not enough seats left in the oral presentations or if the Scientific Committee believes your research is more suited to a poster presentation.

Ali Aahil Noorali

Humza Thobani

Chair, National Student Research Conference

Chair, Scientific Committee


