

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

2020 STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

GUIDELINES

The Manchester University Student Research Symposium is a showcase for scholarly research across disciplines. The Symposium was started by Dean Jo Young Switzer in 1999 to give students and faculty an opportunity to collaborate on research. It continues to be one of our most significant campus events, offering high-quality presentations.

The 2020 Manchester University Student Research Symposium will take place on Friday, April 24, from 3 to 6:30 p.m., on the North Manchester Campus. Students at this year's Symposium will share their work with the larger academic community, enlivening the intellectual climate on campus by stimulating discussions and facilitating collaborations within and across disciplines. Students may choose to present their scholarly work in an oral presentation or a poster presentation.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

In an oral presentation, participating students present their work to an audience in a designated classroom in the Academic Center. Students are allotted 15 minutes to present, followed by a 3-minute question-and-answer period. A student convener keeps track of time and may also facilitate the discussion. A faculty evaluator is also present during the session to evaluate the presentation and provide written feedback.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Effective posters communicate the significance of the research, an overview of how the research was conducted, the results, and the implications of those results in a visually engaging manner. During the designated poster session time, all poster presenters stand by their posters to engage with audience members who circulate in an open forum. Faculty evaluators will also be present to provide written feedback to students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstracts due — Friday, February 28, 2020

Students submit a 250–300-word abstract and specify oral or poster presentation style.

Students may also specify if they wish to be considered for a writing or poster presentation award.

Acceptance notifications — Friday, March 6, 2020

Upon review of the abstracts submitted, a representative from the Symposium Committee will notify students by e-mail.

Keynote presenter auditions — Week of March 23, 2020

Students who wish to apply for the honor of keynote presenter at the reception must audition by presenting to the Symposium Committee members.

Submissions for writing award due — Monday, April 6, 2020

Students who wish to be considered for the writing award submit a 10-12-page paper for review.

PDFs of posters due — Monday, April 6, 2020

Students submit a PDF of their finished poster so that evaluators will have an opportunity to review the posters at length.

Student Research Symposium — Friday, April 24, 2020, 3 to 6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS

Finding a Mentor

It is important to identify a faculty mentor as soon as possible to work with you as you prepare for the Symposium. The Symposium Committee is grateful to faculty mentors for supporting students in the pursuit of academic excellence. The faculty mentor plays a significant role in the research process.

Support and Guidance: Students can expect support and feedback from their mentors. Students can expect their mentors to be accessible, willing to listen, and responsive to questions and concerns. Mentors often provide personal encouragement and guidance in helping students achieve their immediate and longer-term goals. Mentors take an interest in students' progress and are committed to students' development as researchers or leaders.

Ideas and Intellect: Mentors can help students refine their ideas and shape their project into a form that can be accomplished. Mentors support students intellectually, encouraging them to think for themselves and to challenge themselves. In research, students can expect their mentors to offer research guidance in areas such as developing a research idea; conducting experimental design or data analysis; honing technical writing skills or presentation skills; identifying resources; and/or interpreting and critiquing literature.

Faculty mentors should:

- Review and approve the student's research project.
- Review and approve the student's abstract before submission.
- Work with the participating student to complete the research project.*
- Work with the participating student to prepare and practice the presentation.
- Attend the Symposium to view the participating student's presentations.

**Research involving humans must be approved by IRB. Seek approval early!*

Submitting an Abstract

Students are selected to present at the Symposium based on a carefully written abstract. Using the following criteria, abstracts are evaluated by the Symposium Committee:

Introductory Statement: Does the abstract begin with a concise, engaging, introductory statement that describes and connects the topic to literature and purpose of the work?

Methodological Approach: Is the method used to support the thesis to answer the research question identified? Does the method of inquiry connect to the purpose of the scholarship?

Findings: Are the findings clearly connected to the purpose of the scholarship? Does the abstract provide an explanation of what was expected, accomplished, collected, or produced?

Contribution to the Discipline: Does the abstract clearly state how this work advances knowledge in the discipline, why it is important, or how it can be used within the field?

Professional Writing: Is the abstract written in a professional manner appropriate to the discipline?

Length: The abstract must be 250-300 words.

Awards

While all participating students in the Symposium will receive written feedback about their presentations, students may also elect to be considered for various awards:

Poster Presentation Award: Participating students may elect to have their poster and presentation skills judged.

The Jo Young Switzer Writing Award: In addition to an oral or poster presentation, students may elect to submit a 10-12-page paper in the appropriate format of the discipline.

Keynote Presenter: Students may elect to audition for the honor of keynote presenter at the celebratory reception. In an oral presentation, the selected student will present his or her research to the entire Symposium audience.