

'Educating Global Citizens' Symposium 2016:

Guidelines on applying to present your independent research project

If you are applying to present your independent research project at the student research symposium on Friday 15 April, please read these guidelines prior to submitting your application.

What are we looking for?

We are inviting applications for independent research by undergraduate and postgraduate students that seeks to make the world better – for people and for the planet. It's that simple.

A few myths to bust:

- It doesn't have to be about the environment. Yes, the environment is a significant part of sustainability but we are also seeking applications that explore society, culture, the economy, the arts, business and much more. Read the presentation themes outlined on the website to see the breadth of sustainability issues we'll be exploring at the symposium.
- It doesn't have to be practical. We aren't just looking for research with immediate tangible outcomes. Your work is of interest to us if it contributes to the wider body of sustainability research – including historical explorations, philosophical reflections and theoretical considerations. If you aren't sure whether to apply, please contact Julia Kendal (email: J.kendal@soton.ac.uk) before disqualifying yourself from taking part.

Some guidance on the application form:

Your research title

Please provide your research title. If your application is successful, you'll be able to submit a different presentation title.

Your abstract

This is your opportunity to sell your research to the judging panel. We will want to know:

- What your research is about. The judging committee and panel won't all be familiar with your research area so outline what it is for a lay audience. Make sure to be specific, not just about the topic area, but what your research question is.
- Why your research is interesting. What makes it unique? What is it contributing to the wider body of research?
- What the wider implications of the research are.

Your abstract doesn't need to be your research project abstract; it's just a summary of what you will talk about if successful.

Presentation themes

As sustainability topics are often interdisciplinary, please tick ALL the symposium themes that relate to your research. Make sure you read the presentation theme descriptions (available on the website) before submitting your application.

If your application to present your research is successful we will be using the presentation themes to organise the sessions and the poster displays. There will be prizes for the best presentations and posters in each symposium. Your research will be eligible for the prize for just one of the themes that you select; the judging panel will decide which theme is most appropriate for your research when assessing your application to present your work.

Presentation type

There are two ways you can present your research:

- *10-minute presentation:* you will have ten minutes to present your research, followed by five minutes of questions. We will provide you with a presentation template, guidance on how to present at an academic conference as well as a training session on presenting. This method will enable you to develop your presentation skills, as well as share your research with a wider audience at the conference. The question and answer session afterwards is an opportunity to gain some informal feedback on your research too.
- *Poster:* This is an opportunity to develop your creative and communication skills. We will provide you with guidance on how to present your research through a poster. We won't be providing a template because the design of the poster will be part of the judging process for the poster prizes. You will submit your poster electronically prior to the symposium; we will arrange the printing and cover the costs.

Make sure you tick both options if you want to be submit an application for a verbal presentation and a poster. If your application is successful, we will let you know which presentation method you will be using.

Social media team

To widen the impact and engagement with student research, we are recruiting for a social media team to capture and share the activity throughout the symposium on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We have two places on the social media team for students delivering 10-minute presentations. By joining the team, you will be able to develop your social media skills and state on your CV that you were part of the social media team for an international research symposium.

If you're the right person for the team, you'll know why you only have 140 characters to tell us why you should join the team.

The rest of the application form should be self-explanatory, but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch!

NB: the information about your degree course is only for interest, to provide us with information about where we are receiving applications from. It will not be considered as part of the judging process.

A few general 'dos' and don'ts' for your application:

Do	Don't
Clearly describe your initiative for an unfamiliar audience	Feel you have to use all of the words in the abstract application. The 200 words is a limit, not a target.
Be as specific as possible	Be vague
Proofread	Exceed the word limit
Spell out acronyms	Use jargon
Submit on time.	Be too humble. Sell your research to the judges