



Rules of Poster Competition ICYS

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I. Introduction

Posters are key components of communicating your research and they have an important role in a successful scientific career. The aim is simple: to present the summary of your work in short and to arouse people's interest.

To help you, we present you not only the rules of the Poster Competition but some useful advices as well.

II. Poster format (Rules)

1. The poster must include the following:

- Title of your project
- Names of author(s) and their country

2. Size

The maximum size of the poster is A0 (841mm x 1189 mm).
The poster can be smaller but a bigger size is NOT allowed.



3. Useful advices

- All illustrations and text should be readable from a distance of 2 meters. Use at least 16 bp for the letters.
- Institution logos and ICYS logos may be displayed on the poster but it is not necessary.
- The right format for a scientific poster includes the following parts:



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- Abstract (brief summary about the background and the purpose of the project)
 - Materials and Methods
 - Results (tables, graphs, charts)
 - Conclusions
 - Literature (minimum 1 or 2 sources)
- To the pictures/tables/graphs/charts you should give a short title or explanation.
 - Posters Should Have Your Personality
 - If you would like to read more about good posters, [click here!](#)
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1876493/>)

III. Poster presentation and awards

1. Rules of the oral presentation

- a) Students will be given a one-minute period to introduce their projects to the judges. It means that the judging sessions will consist of a one-minute long presentation for every poster given by the competitor(s) without any question-and-answer period.
- b) Only one member of the jury (the expert of that field) listens to the oral presentation in every section but all of the jury members give points to the poster itself.
- c) Students are NOT allowed to give anything to the jury! They can make brochures about the work and give it to other students or teachers but not to the jury.

2. Awards

- a) The final order is based on the points given by the jury members.
- b) The Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- c) In each section, 30% of the presented posters can get an award. (If this number is not an integer number, the jury can decide to lift the limit.)

3. Special cases

- a) *Do the jury members give points to the students from their own country?*
No, they don't. Instead they count with the average of the other members and this average will be the points given by the jury member from the same country.
- b) *What if there are students from the country of the expert?*
A jury member never gives points to his/her students. In this case another jury member or the head of the jury listens to the oral presentation of his/her students.

IV. Organising and the jury

1. Organising

- a) We strongly recommend to collect the posters at the registration and put them on their place **a day before the poster presentations**. This is necessary for the jury to



check all of the posters in peace and have the chance to give the points for the format earlier.

If it is not possible, give the code of the posters to the students at the registration and also give information to them when they can set up their posters. The setting also should be a day before the oral presentations.

- b) Length of the Poster Competition must be long enough to listen to every poster even in the biggest section. We recommend to use the following counting:

$$\text{Time of the Poster Competition} = [\text{Number of posters in the biggest section}] \times 3 \text{ minutes} + 30 \text{ minutes}$$

For example if there are 36 posters in the biggest section, the counting is that:

$$36 \times 3 + 30 = 138$$

So in this case the Poster Competition should be longer than 138 minutes.

It is necessary for the jury to do their work and also for the students because in this way they have time to discuss with each other as well.

- c) At the beginning of the Poster Competition, the head of the jury must have 10 minutes to welcome the students, introduce the jury and repeat the rules. For this, sound equipment may be necessary.
- d) At the end of the competition, the students collect their own posters.

2. Jury

- a) Number and members of the jury
- In the jury, there must be 1 expert for each section.
 - We recommend to unite small sections which are close in their field. For example Maths and Computer Sciences can be one section.
- b) Giving points
- Each member of the jury gives points to the format of every poster (in three different aspects: First impression and Scientific content and Quality).
 - Only the expert member of the jury gives points for the oral presentation of every poster.
 - See more on the scoring sheets.
- c) Scoring aspects:
- **First impression**
Max. 10 points
Do you like the poster for the first sight? Would you step closer because of the view?
 - **Scientific content**
Max. 10 points
Does it have the following parts?



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- Abstract (brief summary about the background and the purpose of the project)
- Materials and Methods
- Results (tables, graphs, charts)
- Conclusions
- Literature (minimum 1 or 2 sources)

- **Quality**

Max. 10 points

Can you see and read everything easily? Does the pictures/charts/tables have a good quality?

- **Oral presentation**

Max. 10 points

In one minute, did the student(s) summarise the project?

- **Total**

Max. 30+10 points

(30 if the member of the jury is not the expert of the field, and 30+10 if she/he is the expert.)



Poster session evaluation – suggestions

The purpose of this document is to clarify regulations for the poster session, which regularly takes place during the International Conference of Young Scientists. I participated as judge in poster session twice and below I present some of my suggestions, which might be helpful in further evaluation of poster sessions.

1. **Categories and number of awarded posters.** During last year's poster session there was one price for poster in each category (Mathematics, Life Science etc.). This is a big simplification in judging posters, as judges have to choose best posters out of smaller groups of posters, rather than from all of them. There is one drawback of this solution, which is various number of posters in each category and therefore it is not always fair for students. I would suggest awarding given percentage of posters in each category (similarly as it is done with presentations), let's say that number of awards has to be no more than 10% of all posters submitted to the category. If more than one poster is awarded in the category, I would suggest making all awards equal (without additional selection of the 1st, 2nd price etc).
2. **Process of choosing best posters.** There is no sense in giving points to all the posters according to assessment criteria described later in 3. as there are too many posters and it is impossible to judge reliably all of them. The way we chose posters during last two poster sessions was following. During the poster session judges walk around and note which posters they like most and why. Judges should talk with participants who made those posters (of course it is recommended to talk with as many participants as possible, as sometimes only after conversation some posters are better understood). Later, after the poster session, judges should look together at all the posters one by one and say which of them, they think, is a candidate to award and why do they consider it as one of the best. Posters with no such votes should be rejected. With the rest of the posters judges can either already decide which posters should be awarded, or, if it is not possible yet, they should try to watch all the posters one by one again and try to eliminate more posters. If further elimination processes do not change the number of award candidate's judges can try another solution. Let's say there are 'n' posters left. Each judge can give then to each poster grade from 1 to n (to each poster a different value, so that all values from 1 to n are used). These points should be given secretly. Posters with greatest number of points should be awarded. I would like to mention here that the most important during judging posters is conversation between judges. Giving reasons why they like or dislike the poster usually ends up with compromise.
3. **Assessment criteria.** The following assessment criteria should all be satisfied by awarded posters, however usually there are more posters satisfying all of them.



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- **Creativity** – original presentation of the poster’s content, pictures, charts etc. created by the participant, not just copied from the Internet
- **Scientific content** – the posters contain some research results, charts, diagrams etc.
- **Aesthetics** – balanced quantity of text, charts etc., pictures and charts are of good quality, not blurred and legible.
- **Clarity** – the overall idea about the research should be easily understood from the poster, even by person not related with science. Of course just the overall idea, the poster should also contain more detailed data, that participant should be able to explain. The whole poster should be divided into parts, such as introduction (aim of the research), the main part and should finish with results and conclusions.
- **Conversation** – the participant should be an expert in his topic. Participant should be able to summarize his research briefly in understandable way.

Of course the personal judge’s feeling about the poster is very important too. Moreover, the poster should not contain any mistakes in formulas etc.